

## Jeremy Thorpe spoke of killing male model, Crown say

Thorpe, the former Liberal leader, referred to a relationship he is alleged to have had with Mr. Scott, a male model, as a "black cloud hanging over Peter Bessell, a former Liberal MP, said at Magistrates' Court, Somerset, yesterday. Mr.

Thorpe, he added, had suggested killing Mr. Scott as "the final solution", adding that the body could be disposed of by dropping it down a tin mine shaft. He had said it was no worse than shooting a sick dog. Mr. Thorpe had also spoken of killing himself.

## Homosexual relations during visit to mother's home

Thorpe were there. Thorpe first asked Mr. Bessell to look at the door. He was outlining a plan to Mr. Bessell of a way of disposing of Mr. Scott. They were talking about shooting Mr. Scott.

Mr. Bessell said that after he objected to shooting Mr. Thorpe had said: "In that case it will have to be poison." Mr. Bessell continued: "Mr. Holmes, who has a sense of humour, said that it would look rather odd if Mr. Scott dropped dead on the floor." Mr. Bessell said: "I, too, have a sense of humour and I said he could apologise to the landlord and ask directions to the mineshaft."

Mr. Thorpe has a wonderful sense of humour, but it was not evident on that occasion, Mr. Thorpe did not respond to the joke and asked me for not taking the matter seriously."

Mr. Bessell said that Mr. Thorpe was relieved at news of the marriage of Mr. Scott and accepted that it made the plan evolved impracticable. He had said: "It would still have been better if the ultimate solution had been used."

Earlier Mr. Peter Taylor QC, for the Crown, said that Mr. Scott (whose real name was Jack Holmes) and Mr. Thorpe met at a restaurant in Oxford Street, London, in the summer of 1974. Mr. Taylor said that Mr. Thorpe, at the House of Commons after a nervous breakdown and asked Mr. Taylor for help.

Mr. Thorpe took him to his mother's house at Oxford, where he introduced him as a member of a camera crew. Counsel added: "During the night Mr. Thorpe entered Jack's room, and advanced to him, and homosexual relations occurred. Mr. Thorpe then provided a furnished room for him in Draycott Close, London, at his own instigation and expense. He paid frequent visits there, and homosexual relations continued, certainly until the end of 1975."

Mr. Taylor said that in 1974 Mr. Scott went to live in the West Country, talked openly about his relationship with Mr. Thorpe, and sought to publish the story.

Eventually, counsel added, Mr. Holmes became convinced that Mr. Thorpe had repeatedly urged him to commit suicide. Mr. Holmes was a homosexual, and Mr. Taylor said that Mr. Scott was a homosexual.

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## Iran's Premier plans new laws to open way for corruption trials

From Charles Douglas-Horne  
Tehran, Nov 20

Iran's new Prime Minister is to introduce laws to force Iranians in self-imposed exile to return home to face corruption investigations, on pain of losing their property if they stay away.

In the first interview given since he was appointed by the Shah on November 6, General Amir-Abbas Hekmatyar, the former Chief of Defence Staff, told *The Times* that he hoped to be only a temporary Prime Minister, but while he was it was his duty to clean up the country.

He said that he intended to impose corrupt officials, no matter what their previous rank or title, including members of the royal family, and insisted that the Shah himself has now changed and wants restoration of constitutional government.

The 61-year-old general was wearing service dress with gold epaulettes over his right shoulder and six rows of medals, having just introduced his ministers and his programme to Parliament, which will vote on it tomorrow.

He outlined the three phases of his programme: a return to normality; stability brought about by a general return to work, ending the strikes which are paralysing the country; and increased measures to bring corrupt officials and industrialists to book.

Thereafter, General Hekmatyar hopes to prepare for elections and hand over his office to a successor. "I am a temporary Prime Minister, I do not want to form a party or belong to one. The sooner I get back to my old office the better, and if Parliament does not endorse my programme on Tuesday, I will be back there the next day."

How long did he intend to remain Prime Minister to carry out his programme? "Do you ask a fireman how long he will fight a fire? The answer is, until he has put the fire out."

Violence has decreased since "Black Sunday" the day before he was appointed, when rioters drank the lethal brew ladled out of a big tub by the commune's doctor and nurse.

Gripping exorcisers, loyal to Mr. Jones until the end, moved down many of the cult members as they tried to flee screaming into the jungle.

There was no indication of the type of poison used. Mass suicide of this magnitude would fit in with the cult's belief in resurrection from the dead.

The body of Mr. Jones was found alongside his wife and their small son, according to Mr. Christopher Nascimento, the Minister of State in the Office of the Guyanese Prime Minister in New York. He said he did not know whether the 46-year-old Mr. Jones died from poisoning or was shot.

Mrs. Field-Ridley put the toll at 163 women, 82 children and 138 men. She said 17 shotguns, 14 rifles, seven pistols and one flare gun had been recovered.

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## Long Indian summer a boost for burgundy

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Nov 20

It seems that already 1978 is destined to become one of the great and, needless to say, expensive burgundy vintages. Both the rich red and fruity white wines of France's most prestigious vineyards are in short supply as eager buyers snap them up at high prices in the hope of laying down a great cru in their cellars.

The weather has made the wine. The long cold spring and less than sunny summer meant that what grapes there were developed slowly. Then came the long Indian summer of September and October which fattened and ripened the grapes in a rush at the end of the season, increasing the sugar content and making certain that the natural alcohol level would be high.

Yesterday saw the showpiece annual auction of the wines of the Hospices de Beaune and the prices paid confirmed the trend which is that 1978 is going to cost at least 50 per cent more than 1977.

The smaller harvest meant that there were only 362 pieces (barrels holding 228 litres) for sale compared with 585 last year. Nevertheless, the sale realised 6,063,000 francs (£713,300) compared to 5,644,664 francs last year—only 6.68 per cent down.

Prices paid for both red and white wines were 51.27 per cent higher than last year, but the reds were more eagerly sought, averaging 56.95 per cent more than in 1977. The highest price was paid for a piece of *Charmat*, which sold for 150,000 francs, but this was an exaggerated price as the barrel was a prestige growth being sold for the favourite charity of Signor Lino Ventura, the Italian actor.

Nevertheless, more modest little *Charmat* sold for 35,000 francs (£4,140), showing the general high price on offer.

The Hospices auction is not accepted by the trade as being a genuine barometer of prices. Nevertheless, this year it seems that the prices paid there could even be behind those being paid generally. Some of the best vineyards are being able to sell their wines at up to 100 per cent more than last year.

Last year saw an exceptionally low harvest, and this year the harvest is scarcely a third to a half of last year's, so the vintage has a certain rarity value over and above that given by its quality.

Continued on page 6, col 3

## 383 Americans dead in Guyana sect commune

Georgetown, Nov 20—Jim Jones, head of a fanatical California religious cult, led his family and hundreds of his American disciples to their deaths in a mass suicide-ritual, the Guyanese Government reported today.

A total of 383 Americans died and between 600 to 800 other members of the People's Temple were missing, Mrs. Shirley Field-Ridley, the Guyanese Information Minister, announced.

The body of Mr. Jones was found alongside his wife and their small son, according to Mr. Christopher Nascimento, the Minister of State in the Office of the Guyanese Prime Minister in New York. He said he did not know whether the 46-year-old Mr. Jones died from poisoning or was shot.

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## Police shot at PT Basque gunmen

Basque nationalists, in one of the bloodiest of two policemen today, 11 more in the third anniversary of Franco's death, members of the Basque (security) exercising and all this morning toward the barracks, beside the Basque motorway, the men armed with guns and shot. Before the attack, down with gun-back into the cars.

About 150 rounds, the fact of the training class same time every day of the motor-escaped by taking or Bilbao and dis-traffic.

Toll has been my previous in-letty attack caused s than any other e Basque country first in which such of policemen has under fire at one

dead and injured

held the post since 1976. It was the first resignation from the Government over police differences since December 1976, when Mr. Reg Francisco resigned from the Cabinet.

Mr. Corder's responsibility for small businesses will be assumed by Mr. Leslie Hunkfield, the other Industry Under-Secretary.

Workers at the cooperative voted last week in favour of a takeover by a private firm when it became clear that the alternative was the appointment of a receiver.

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## Beer train blocks line after IRA hijacking

The Provisional IRA hijacked a train carrying beer from the Irish Republic to Belfast, valued at more than £1m. The train was abandoned just north of the border after bombs were thrown to have been placed on board. The operation is part of a new campaign of IRA violence which was condemned by Mr. Roy Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry.

Access to raise rates

Access, the credit card company owned by three of the big clearing banks, is to raise charges for its 3.6 million customers from early in the New Year. But the civil Barclaycard says it has no immediate plans to follow the increase in its monthly interest rate from 14 per cent to 2 per cent.

Secrets protest

More than 50 Labour backbenchers sought to get the Backbenchers' Labour Party to pass various motions on Mr. Samuel Silkin, QC, the Attorney General, for authorising prosecutions in the recent secret case. Their motion demands immediate fulfilment of the Party's commitment to repeal the Official Secrets Act with a new measure on the withholding of information.

Passion play trouble

The Oberammergau passion play faces a new controversy over its century-old text which the American branch of the International Council of Jews and Christians regards as anti-Semitic. It is demanding a boycott unless the village council, strongly in favour of the version, changes it.

Softer Israeli line

Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, has indicated that when his Cabinet resumes its deliberations today, the peace negotiations with Egypt, it will withdraw several of its reservations and declare its readiness to sign the draft treaty as it stood three weeks ago, provided Egypt also drops its latest demands.

## Twin blow for North Sea policies

Government policies for North Sea oil and gas were dealt a twin blow yesterday after an application by Mr. Garth Williams, QC, who represents Mr. Deakin.

Mr. Thorpe was accompanied to the court by his wife, Marion, his mother, Mrs. Ursula Thorpe, and Mr. Clement Brund, MP.

The red-brick court was crowded with 31 journalists and 16 members of the public at the start of the proceedings, which are expected to last between two and three weeks. A large crowd gathered outside.

Chinese 'Khrushchev'

The People's Daily in Peking has pointed to the danger of a Chinese 'Khrushchev' and insisted that Mao Tse-tung must not be 'humped' together with the Gang of Four. Wall posters have praised Chou En-lai for defending the people during the 'fascism' of the Cultural Revolution.

El Dorado opening

The Gold of El Dorado exhibition, the largest collection of pre-Columbian gold ever assembled outside South America, is to be shown at the Royal Academy today. The exhibition, mounted at a cost of \$600,000, is expected to attract half a million visitors in the next 17 weeks.

Return of benefits

The Department of Health and Social Security demanded the return of the total amount paid to a woman in Sheffield who pleaded guilty to making false statements to obtain benefits.

Prison safety: The cells of violent prisoners will have cardboard furniture that cannot easily be made into weapons.

Spain: Ambassador recalled from Belgium in protest at freeing of four alleged terrorists.

## Public battle over Mulder succession

A public battle has broken out over the succession to Dr. Connie Mulder as leader of the National Party in Transvaal. It is the most profound dispute to have afflicted the party since it came to power 30 years ago (Nidhiel Ashford writes). The result could be more divisive than the schism of 1969 when Dr. Albert Herzog resigned.

On other pages

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Letters: On trade unions from Mr. P. F. Kinnear; on parole from Mr. Bruce Douglas-Mann, MP; on Rhodesia sanctions from Dame Molly Gibbs.

Science: The demystification of Mao; Frenzied fringe of religion.

Features: pages 16 and 18

Bernard Levin on the decline of Chairman Mao; Mr. Davis's future, under the People's Temple; Peter Evans looks at the Runnymede Trust.

Arts: page 7

Daily Forum interviewed by Glynis Roberts; John Russell Taylor on drawings by Bonnard and Fragonard; Stanley Sadie on Rossini's *Aida*; all page 19.

Obituary: page 19

Vice-Admiral R. M. Serrano; Mr. W. K. Pyke-Lees.

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THORPE CONSPIRACY CASE



Personalities in the hearing before Minehead magistrates involving Mr Jeremy Thorpe include (left to right): Mr Peter Bessell, Mr Norman Scott, Mr George Deakin, Mr David Holmes, Mr Jack Hayward and Mr John Le Mesurier.

# Former MP tells of Liberal leader's threat to kill himself

Jeremy Thorpe, the former leader of the Liberal Party, was involved in arranging a £10,000 murder contract after a homosexual affair in the 1960s threatened to ruin him, Mr Peter Taylor, QC, for the Crown, told magistrates at Minehead, Somerset, yesterday.

Committee proceedings against Mr Thorpe and three other men began, and reporting restrictions were lifted at the request of Mr Gareth Williams, QC, who appeared for one of the defendants, George Deakin.

Before the court are John Jeremy Thorpe, aged 49, a Liberal MP for Devon, North, of Orme Square, Bayswater; David Melton Holmes, aged 48, a merchant banker of Eaton Place, Belgrave, both London; John Le Mesurier, aged 46, a businessman, of St Bride's Major, near Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan; and George Deakin, aged 35, a gaming machine operator, of Baglan Road, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan.

All are charged that between October 1, 1968, and November 1, 1977, in Devon and elsewhere, they conspired together and with others to murder Norman Scott.

Mr Thorpe alone is further accused of unlawfully inciting Mr Holmes to murder Mr Scott. Reporters representing home and overseas interests were surprised when in a totally unexpected move, counsel for Mr Deakin applied for reporting restrictions to be lifted. His application was granted by Mr Edward Donati, chairman of West Somerset magistrates.

Mrs Marion Thorpe, Mr Thorpe's wife, was sitting beside Mr Clement Freud, Liberal MP for Ely, on the public benches.

Mr Peter Taylor, QC, for the prosecution, said:

In 1959 Mr Jeremy Thorpe became a member of Parliament. In the early 1960s evidence will be that he had a homosexual relationship with Norman Scott, thereafter Scott was a continuing danger to his reputation and career, a danger of which Mr Thorpe was constantly reminded by Scott pestering him for help and talking of the relationship to others.

Mr Thorpe's anxiety became obsessive. Early in 1963, in the presence of Mr Bessell, a fellow Liberal MP, he incited his close friend, the defendant David Holmes, to kill Norman Scott.

Holmes and Bessell tried, over a period, to dissuade him from this plan and to humour him. Less dramatic measures were suggested, and tried, seeking to get Scott out of the country to America, attempting to set him up in a job, paying him a retainer, purchasing a house and a car, and so on.

In 1974 Scott had come to live in the West Country. He was talking about his relationship with Mr Thorpe and he was seeking to publish a story of it.

The accused Holmes eventually became convinced that Mr Thorpe had repeatedly urged the only way to stop the threat effectively was to kill Norman Scott.

Mr Holmes had connections in South Wales. He knew the accused, Le Mesurier, a carpet dealer, and through him he met Mr Deakin, who dealt in fruit machines. A plot was hatched to find someone who would kill Scott for a reward.

Deakin recruited Andrew Newton, an airline pilot, as a hired assassin. Holmes met Newton and briefed him. Holmes also met Newton and briefed him further. Various attempts were made to lure Scott

until, in October, 1975, Newton sought him out in Devon and drove him on to the moors.

There Newton produced a gun. Scott had brought a large dog with him. Newton shot the dog but failed to shoot Scott. Newton was arrested and convicted in March, 1976, of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. He was sent to prison.

On his release in 1977 he was paid £5,000, half the agreed price. In pursuance of the agreement, the money was handed over to him by the accused, Le Mesurier, at a remote venue in South Wales.

The money to pay for this contract came from a wealthy benefactor who intended it simply as a contribution to Liberal Party election funds. But Mr Thorpe personally arranged for the money to be transferred by a devious route to Mr Holmes. That in a nutshell, is what the case is about.

Mr Taylor alleged that the money paid to Mr Newton came from cash given to the Liberal Party by Mr Jack Hayward, a millionaire based in the Bahamas. Mr Hayward, he said, did not know what the money was being used for; he thought it was to cover election expenses.

In 1961, counsel continued, Mr Scott was known as Norman Scott. He was 21, a bachelor, and was involved in training horses at the Oxfordshire stables of a Mr Vater. He first briefly met Mr Thorpe when the former Liberal leader visited the stables.

Later Mr Scott fell out with his employer and went into a clinic suffering from a nervous breakdown. After completing his treatment he went to the House of Commons to see Mr Thorpe and asked for his help.

Mr Taylor said that in 1961, Mr Thorpe took Mr Scott to his mother's house at Osted, Surrey.

Mr Thorpe introduced Mr Scott as a member of a camera crew who was involved in a film about him. Mr Taylor continued: "During the night Thorpe entered the room and made advances to Scott and homosexual relations took place."

The next day Mr Thorpe went abroad and Mr Scott moved into a furnished room in Draycott Place, near Westminster, at Mr Thorpe's expense. When Mr Thorpe returned from his visit he frequently visited Mr Scott, and homosexual relations took place on and off at least until 1963.

Shoes were bought for Mr Scott, paid for out of Mr Thorpe's account. Mr Taylor said: "At Christmas, 1961, Mr Thorpe arranged for Mr Scott to stay with some friends, a Mr and Mrs Collier, at Tiverton, Devon. One day the Colliers, Mr Thorpe and Mr Scott had lunch at the Bromhill Hotel, Barnstaple, and later, it was alleged, homosexual relations took place between Mr Scott and Mr Thorpe."

Later in 1962 Mr Scott went to London and lived for a while at Mr Thorpe's flat at Marsham Court, counsel added.

In February, 1963, Mr Thorpe arranged for Mr Scott to go to Switzerland to work as a groom, but Mr Scott returned after only two or three days. Afterwards Mr Scott went to Ireland, where he was looking after horses.

He had two major difficulties. Mr Taylor said. First, his national insurance card had not been returned by Mr Thorpe despite frequent requests. Secondly, luggage missing in Switzerland contained a number

of compromising letters written to him by Mr Thorpe.

In March, 1965, Mr Scott decided to write a long letter to Mr Thorpe's mother from Dublin, where he was living. Counsel said the letter disclosed in detail the alleged relationship, and told the magistrates they would see a copy of it.

He added: "As to the truth of the allegations, it is only right to say that Mr Thorpe has flatly denied them in a statement to the police. However, the Crown has evidence in addition to Norman Scott's. There will be produced two letters, the tone of which support fully what Mr Scott said."

Mr Taylor continued: "There will be evidence from Mr Bessell of an admission made to him by Thorpe, confirming the story." Mr Bessell was urged to request to lunch by Mr Thorpe at the Ritz Hotel, London.

"They met and Mr Thorpe was very tense. He handed over to Mr Bessell the letter which Scott had written to his mother. Bessell read it and asked whether the contents were true. Mr Thorpe said they were."

Mr Bessell then offered to go to Dublin to see Mr Scott and Mr Thorpe was said to be "relieved" by that.

A meeting took place in Ireland and Mr Bessell gave the former male model some money and heard his complaints about his missing luggage in Switzerland.

Mr Taylor said that in June, 1965, the luggage arrived in the United Kingdom and Mr Bessell's secretary collected it from Victoria station and took it to Mr Bessell's office in Pall Mall. Mr Thorpe went to the office and retrieved the letters from the trunk before it was sent on to Mr Scott in Ireland.

In April, 1967, and the following July, Mr Scott approached Mr Bessell asking for help about obtaining a passport and an American visa. Mr Bessell was unable to get a visa but did obtain a passport. That year Mr Bessell started paying Mr Scott a retainer "to keep him going until he got a job and went abroad."

It was alleged that a weekly sum of £25 was paid out of the petty cash from Mr Bessell's company and Mr Thorpe reimbursed his colleague. In all, about £600 to £700 was paid out, including one payment of £55 in May, 1968, to set Mr Scott up as male model.

Mr Taylor said that Mr Thorpe was also worried about other documents that might have been in Mr Scott's possession and he devised a plan to get them from him.

At that stage Mr Holmes became involved in the story, the magistrates were told. Mr Holmes, a former deputy treasurer of the Liberal Party, had been best man at his first wedding.

Early in 1968 Mr Thorpe suggested to Mr Holmes that he should pose as a reporter from the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, and offer money to Mr Scott for his story if he handed over letters confirming it. Nothing came out of Mr Holmes's attempt to get Mr Scott's letters. When Mr Holmes approached Mr Scott he denied he had any letters.

In December, 1968, Mr Bessell visited Mr Thorpe at the Liberal MP's room at the Commons. Mr Taylor said that Mr Thorpe was very depressed and described the Scott case as "a black cloud always over him."

When Mr Thorpe was told there was no chance of getting Mr Scott a United States visa, he allegedly replied: "We have got to get rid of him."

Counsel said that Mr Bessell turned to Mr Thorpe and said: "You mean, knocking him off?" Mr Thorpe allegedly replied: "Yes, it is dishevelled." Mr Thorpe's reply was ironical in the light of what later happened, because he said: "It is no worse than killing a sick dog."

Early in 1969 another meeting took place at the Commons, this time between Mr Bessell, Mr Holmes, and Mr Thorpe when Mr Taylor said, discussed. Mr Holmes was again to pose as a reporter from *Der Spiegel*, lure Mr Scott to Cornwall and on the way there get him drunk and kill him.

Counsel continued: "Thorpe made it quite clear that he was sincere and intent." He wanted Mr Bessell and Mr Holmes to discuss the plan and report back to him, but at that stage Mr Holmes had no intention of carrying it out. Mr Bessell and Mr Holmes decided that their only course was to convince Mr Thorpe that the plan was unworkable.

Mr Taylor said that on May 13, 1969, Mr Scott married and Mr Thorpe married and that was a solution to his difficulty.

Mr Bessell and Mr Holmes argued that Mr Scott would also want to keep silent about their relationship.

Counsel said Mr Thorpe was only partially convinced. He agreed that the plan could be shelved but described it as the "ultimate solution." Early in 1970, Mr Scott and his wife parted and again Mr Thorpe felt danger. Mr Thorpe next suggested that Mr Scott should be taken to America and killed there.

In January, 1971, Mr Bessell was in America on business. To placate Mr Thorpe, Mr Holmes also went and then went through a charade that they had tried to get Mr Scott to America but failed.

Meanwhile Mr Scott had moved to North Wales and had formed an association there with a widow, Mrs Gwen Parry-Jones.

Mr Taylor said that in May, 1971, Mr Scott and Mrs Parry-Jones visited London and spoke of his alleged relationship with Mr Thorpe to three prominent Liberals, Lord Byers, Mr David Steel, and Mr Zeph Granger.

After that, discussions took place between the trio and Mr Thorpe.

Mrs Parry-Jones died in March, 1972, and Mr Scott continued to live in North Wales.

In 1973 he moved to South Molton, in Mr Thorpe's North Devon constituency. Mr Scott began then to talk openly about his relationship with Mr Thorpe to anyone who listened.

Mr Scott met a freelance journalist called Gordon Winter, who took full details of his story, and photocopied letters Mr Thorpe had sent to Mr Scott. On February 27, 1974, Mr Taylor said, the eve of the general election, a local doctor in South Molton, Dr Gleadale, pointed Mr Scott at Mr Holmes's indignation and collected the letters.

The court was told that Dr Gleadale took the letters to Mr Holmes, who burnt them, while Mr Taylor described as a "farcical exercise" because they had been photocopied by Mr Winter. The next day, polling day, Dr Gleadale paid £2,500 into an account for Mr Scott at the Bank of South Molton. The money had come from Mr Holmes, who later admitted that to the police.

Mr Taylor said that when questioned by the police last April Mr Holmes said he had not been reimbursed. He was asked: "Did you discuss this with Mr Thorpe?" Mr Holmes allegedly replied: "Not at the time, but well afterwards." Later Mr Holmes told the police he wanted to withdraw his answers and said he could make no comment.

The Crown submitted that Mr Holmes was "impaired" and then described him as "a month after the £2,500 was handed over, Mr Thorpe wrote to Mr Hayward, of the Bahamas, previously a generous benefactor to the Liberal Party. In his letter he said that Mr Hayward for £50,000, £40,000 to be paid into the Liberal Party general election fund and £10,000 to a Jersey business man, Mr David Dinsdale."

Mr Taylor said that Mr Thorpe gave the reason that he had been fighting a national and local campaign during the election from Barnstaple, and there had been an overlap in time.

Later, it was alleged, Mr Thorpe requested Mr Dinsdale to pass on the money by cheque to David Holmes.

Late in 1974 workmen were renovating premises at 41 Pall Mall, London, which had previously been used by Mr Bessell as offices. Mr Taylor said they discovered documents concealed in a ceiling cupboard. They included the letter which Mr Scott had written to Mr Thorpe's mother about their alleged relationship.

The workmen passed the documents over to the Daily Mirror, who sent them to Mr Thorpe, but only after copying them. Some time after 1974 Mr Holmes became convinced that Mr Thorpe was right about his plans to kill Mr Scott. He had said: "Plans were put in motion to find someone to do it."

The court was told that it was at that time that John Le Mesurier became involved in the alleged murder plot. Mr Le Mesurier had known Mr Holmes for some years through his acquaintance to George Deakin. Mr Taylor said that on one occasion, when all three were together, Mr Le Mesurier told Mr Deakin that a friend of Mr Holmes was being blackmailed, and asked if he knew anyone who could "frighten them off."

The magistrates were told that Mr Deakin spoke to Mr John Miller, a Cardiff businessman, and asked him if he knew anyone who would take on the job for money.

Mr Miller said he did, an airline pilot, Andrew Newton, whom he had known for many years. Mr Taylor said that before Mr Deakin and Mr Holmes met Mr Newton a case full of documents had been taken from Mr Scott. He was found at his Devon home by a man called Steiner, who said he was from *Der Spiegel*, and said he wanted to see Mr Scott's letters.

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That was admitted by Mr Holmes and Mr Newton later, counsel added. Mr Deakin met Andrew Newton at a showman's dinner at Blackpool on February 26, 1975, where they were introduced by Mr Miller. Later Mr Deakin met Mr Newton at the Aust service area on the M4, and gave him a composite photograph of Norman Scott which had been taken earlier from the Barnstaple hotel.

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Mr Taylor continued: "They parted on the agreed basis that Newton was to kill Scott 'on demand.' After Mr Newton had spent some time looking for Mr Scott in Dunstable he got into touch with Mr Deakin and was given Mr Holmes's telephone number in Manchester."

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Mr Thorpe had said in the statement: "At no time have I ever authorized the use of these funds [£20,000 paid to Newton for his fee] for the payment of the kind alleged to either Scott or Newton, and any suggestion of me having done so is entirely without foundation."

Mr Taylor said: "The prosecution say that Mr Thorpe expressly arranged for the money to be passed through accounts unconnected with the Liberal Party to Mr Holmes. The money used to pay Newton came from, or was 'embursed' through, this money held by Holmes."

Mr Peter Bessell then entered the witness box. He gave his address as South Strand, Ocean-side, California. He said he became friendly with Mr Thorpe and became MP for Bodmin in 1974.

In the spring of 1968, he said, in the members' dining room of the House of Commons Mr Thorpe disclosed that he was homosexual.

Later Mr Thorpe showed him

a letter addressed to Thorpe and signed J. Jossiffe (Mr Scott's name). The letter "Dear Mr Thorpe. For last five years, as you know, Jeremy and I have had a homosexual relationship. The letter said that obtaining a job in the country, he had gone to work. It continued: 'I that was the day I read had not come to me as a but only as a dash. Oh to write that, but it up terribly. I was rather a cause, you see, I was for a friend in the real of it' word."

In his letter Mr Scott said that Mr Thorpe took him to his London flat. He alleged: "When I satisfied myself, he put sleep on a hard lump; had. This was when I he did not care for me. Mr Bessell said Mr told him the letter was correct."

Mr Bessell began to tell alleged incident in the room at the Commons. Christmas, 1968, Mr he said, was depressed. Bessell added: "He appeared to him it was a 'less' which 'mould' new away."

Mr Bessell said he thought that it would be possible for Mr Scott to work permit for the States. Mr Bessell added: "He then said: 'I have to get rid of him.'"

Mr Bessell said that Mr Thorpe suggested if body could be weight dropped into a river to change the conversation began talking about in Cornwall. At that point he jumped up and hit him by the shoulders and said: "That's it" or "that's it."

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At a meeting at the January, between Mr J. Jossiffe and Mr Thorpe's room at the Commons, Mr Thorpe suggested that Mr Holmes would be the who could kill Mr Scott. The hearing continues.

Mrs Marion Thorpe, Mr Thorpe's wife, was sitting beside Mr Clement Freud, Liberal MP for Ely, on the public benches.

Mr Peter Taylor, QC, for the prosecution, said:

In 1959 Mr Jeremy Thorpe became a member of Parliament. In the early 1960s evidence will be that he had a homosexual relationship with Norman Scott, thereafter Scott was a continuing danger to his reputation and career, a danger of which Mr Thorpe was constantly reminded by Scott pestering him for help and talking of the relationship to others.

Mr Thorpe's anxiety became obsessive. Early in 1963, in the presence of Mr Bessell, a fellow Liberal MP, he incited his close friend, the defendant David Holmes, to kill Norman Scott.

Holmes and Bessell tried, over a period, to dissuade him from this plan and to humour him. Less dramatic measures were suggested, and tried, seeking to get Scott out of the country to America, attempting to set him up in a job, paying him a retainer, purchasing a house and a car, and so on.

In 1974 Scott had come to live in the West Country. He was talking about his relationship with Mr Thorpe and he was seeking to publish a story of it.

The accused Holmes eventually became convinced that Mr Thorpe had repeatedly urged the only way to stop the threat effectively was to kill Norman Scott.

Mr Holmes had connections in South Wales. He knew the accused, Le Mesurier, a carpet dealer, and through him he met Mr Deakin, who dealt in fruit machines. A plot was hatched to find someone who would kill Scott for a reward.

Deakin recruited Andrew Newton, an airline pilot, as a hired assassin. Holmes met Newton and briefed him. Holmes also met Newton and briefed him further. Various attempts were made to lure Scott

until, in October, 1975, Newton sought him out in Devon and drove him on to the moors.

There Newton produced a gun. Scott had brought a large dog with him. Newton shot the dog but failed to shoot Scott. Newton was arrested and convicted in March, 1976, of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. He was sent to prison.

On his release in 1977 he was paid £5,000, half the agreed price. In pursuance of the agreement, the money was handed over to him by the accused, Le Mesurier, at a remote venue in South Wales.

The money to pay for this contract came from a wealthy benefactor who intended it simply as a contribution to Liberal Party election funds. But Mr Thorpe personally arranged for the money to be transferred by a devious route to Mr Holmes. That in a nutshell, is what the case is about.

Mr Taylor alleged that the money paid to Mr Newton came from cash given to the Liberal Party by Mr Jack Hayward, a millionaire based in the Bahamas. Mr Hayward, he said, did not know what the money was being used for; he thought it was to cover election expenses.

In 1961, counsel continued, Mr Scott was known as Norman Scott. He was 21, a bachelor, and was involved in training horses at the Oxfordshire stables of a Mr Vater. He first briefly met Mr Thorpe when the former Liberal leader visited the stables.

Later Mr Scott fell out with his employer and went into a clinic suffering from a nervous breakdown. After completing his treatment he went to the House of Commons to see Mr Thorpe and asked for his help.

Mr Taylor said that in 1961, Mr Thorpe took Mr Scott to his mother's house at Osted, Surrey.

Mr Thorpe introduced Mr Scott as a member of a camera crew who was involved in a film about him. Mr Taylor continued: "During the night Thorpe entered the room and made advances to Scott and homosexual relations took place."

The next day Mr Thorpe went abroad and Mr Scott moved into a furnished room in Draycott Place, near Westminster, at Mr Thorpe's expense. When Mr Thorpe returned from his visit he frequently visited Mr Scott, and homosexual relations took place on and off at least until 1963.

Shoes were bought for Mr Scott, paid for out of Mr Thorpe's account. Mr Taylor said: "At Christmas, 1961, Mr Thorpe arranged for Mr Scott to stay with some friends, a Mr and Mrs Collier, at Tiverton, Devon. One day the Colliers, Mr Thorpe and Mr Scott had lunch at the Bromhill Hotel, Barnstaple, and later, it was alleged, homosexual relations took place between Mr Scott and Mr Thorpe."

Later in 1962 Mr Scott went to London and lived for a while at Mr Thorpe's flat at Marsham Court, counsel added.

In February, 1963, Mr Thorpe arranged for Mr Scott to go to Switzerland to work as a groom, but Mr Scott returned after only two or three days. Afterwards Mr Scott went to Ireland, where he was looking after horses.

He had two major difficulties. Mr Taylor said. First, his national insurance card had not been returned by Mr Thorpe despite frequent requests. Secondly, luggage missing in Switzerland contained a number

of compromising letters written to him by Mr Thorpe.

In March, 1965, Mr Scott decided to write a long letter to Mr Thorpe's mother from Dublin, where he was living. Counsel said the letter disclosed in detail the alleged relationship, and told the magistrates they would see a copy of it.

He added: "As to the truth of the allegations, it is only right to say that Mr Thorpe has flatly denied them in a statement to the police. However, the Crown has evidence in addition to Norman Scott's. There will be produced two letters, the tone of which support fully what Mr Scott said."

Mr Taylor continued: "There will be evidence from Mr Bessell of an admission made to him by Thorpe, confirming the story." Mr Bessell was urged to request to lunch by Mr Thorpe at the Ritz Hotel, London.

"They met and Mr Thorpe was very tense. He handed over to Mr Bessell the letter which Scott had written to his mother. Bessell read it and asked whether the contents were true. Mr Thorpe said they were."

Mr Bessell then offered to go to Dublin to see Mr Scott and Mr Thorpe was said to be "relieved" by that.

A meeting took place in Ireland and Mr Bessell gave the former male model some money and heard his complaints about his missing luggage in Switzerland.

Mr Taylor said that in June, 1965, the luggage arrived in the United Kingdom and Mr Bessell's secretary collected it from Victoria station and took it to Mr Bessell's office in Pall Mall. Mr Thorpe went to the office and retrieved the letters from the trunk before it was sent on to Mr Scott in Ireland.

In April, 1967, and the following July, Mr Scott approached Mr Bessell asking for help about obtaining a passport and an American visa. Mr Bessell was unable to get a visa but did obtain a passport. That year Mr Bessell started paying Mr Scott a retainer "to keep him going until he got a job and went abroad."

It was alleged that a weekly sum of £25 was paid out of the petty cash from Mr Bessell's company and Mr Thorpe reimbursed his colleague. In all, about £600 to £700 was paid out, including one payment of £55 in May, 1968, to set Mr Scott up as male model.

Mr Taylor said that Mr Thorpe was also worried about other documents that might have been in Mr Scott's possession and he devised a plan to get them from him.

At that stage Mr Holmes became involved in the story, the magistrates were told. Mr Holmes, a former deputy treasurer of the Liberal Party, had been best man at his first wedding.

Early in 1968 Mr Thorpe suggested to Mr Holmes that he should pose as a reporter from the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, and offer money to Mr Scott for his story if he handed over letters confirming it. Nothing came out of Mr Holmes's attempt to get Mr Scott's letters. When Mr Holmes approached Mr Scott he denied he had any letters.

In December, 1968, Mr Bessell visited Mr Thorpe at the Liberal MP's room at the Commons. Mr Taylor said that Mr Thorpe was very depressed and described the Scott case as "a black cloud always over him."

When Mr Thorpe was told there was no chance of getting Mr Scott a United States visa, he allegedly replied: "We have got to get rid of him."

Counsel said that Mr Bessell turned to Mr Thorpe and said: "You mean, knocking him off?" Mr Thorpe allegedly replied: "Yes, it is dishevelled." Mr Thorpe's reply was ironical in the light of what later happened, because he said: "It is no worse than killing a sick dog."

Early in 1969 another meeting took place at the Commons, this time between Mr Bessell, Mr Holmes, and Mr Thorpe when Mr Taylor said, discussed. Mr Holmes was again to pose as a reporter from *Der Spiegel*, lure Mr Scott to Cornwall and on the way there get him drunk and kill him.

Counsel continued: "Thorpe made it quite clear that he was sincere and intent." He wanted Mr Bessell and Mr Holmes to discuss the plan and report back to him, but at that stage Mr Holmes had no intention of carrying it out. Mr Bessell and Mr Holmes decided that their only course was to convince Mr Thorpe that the plan was unworkable.

Mr Miller said he did, an airline pilot, Andrew Newton, whom he had known for many years. Mr Taylor said that before Mr Deakin and Mr Holmes met Mr Newton a case full of documents had been taken from Mr Scott. He was found at his Devon home by a man called Steiner, who said he was from *Der Spiegel*, and said he wanted to see Mr Scott's letters.

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Mr Taylor said that when questioned by the police last April Mr Holmes said he had not been reimbursed. He was asked: "Did you discuss this with Mr Thorpe?" Mr Holmes allegedly replied: "Not at the time, but well afterwards." Later Mr Holmes told the police he wanted to withdraw his answers and said he could make no comment.

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# hijacks a £1m train on way to Belfast

# leaders meet Prime er on economy

# dispute ke pital

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# Cardboard furniture for violent prisoners

Dr. Shirley Summerskill, Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, said that 331 people in prison were considered to be suffering from mental disorders and of those, 377 were serving a life sentence.

In a recent report from the Commons Expenditure Committee on reducing pressure on the prison system recommended that the Department of Health and Social Security should accept more responsibility for prisoners who were suffering from mental disorder of a "non-violent" nature.

Under the Mental Health Act, 1959,

In particular, the report said, the department should pay for the treatment of prisoners until they could be transferred to mental hospitals.

**New museum:** A view of the Battle of Britain Museum, which is to be formally opened by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on November 28. Former Battle of Britain pilots yesterday visited the museum, which is adjacent to the RAF Museum at Hendon. The picture shows a Bofors gun, a Gladiator, a Defiant and a Bismarck.

# MPs seek 'censure' of Attorney General

## Tories blamed over Europe

**By Our Political Editor**

A complaint that the Conservative leadership has been "wishy-washy" towards the current wave of anti-EEC sentiment was made yesterday by Mr Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds.

He called on his party to state unequivocally that it would not allow Labour's anti-Europeans to stampeede the British people into an emotional campaign for withdrawal.

**In a speech to a luncheon**

## Book mark for the Blackpool landlady

From John Chartres  
Blackpool

The first recorded land-lazy literary luncheon was held in Blackpool yesterday in an atmosphere of friendliness and bonhomie, with roast beef and Yorkshire pudding as the main course.

The occasion was the launching of a book about the Lancashire ladies, written by Miss John Walton, lecturer in history at Lancaster University. He was formerly a Blackpool tram conductor (during a student vocation) and is a nephew of one of the ladies about whom he has written. 206 pages in a scholarly, though warm and friendly manner.

Dr Walton's decision to study the social history of the women who through generations going back to the nineteenth century have produced holidays at remarkable value for money was made during his tram-conducting days, when he noted how little his work became at the best of hours of mid-day and at 5.30 p.m.

## Minister in 'Times' talks

By Our Labour Staff

Mr. Owen O'Brien, general secretary of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Natsoap), yesterday met Mr. Albert Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, for a crisis concern at the threatened suspension of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* on November 30. The indications were that Mr. Booth, while listening to the opinions of unions and management, is not becoming actively involved at this stage.

Services of the Press Association, the national news agency,

## Lords asked to quash blasphemy verdicts

The publishers of *Gay News*, the homosexual newspaper, and its editor Mr Denis Lemon, appeared to the House of Lords yesterday against their conviction for blasphemous libel.

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, for Mr Lemon, told the court, however, Lord Diplock said the jury's verdict should be set aside as "unsafe and unsatisfactory."

The intention to blaspheme must comprise the intention to attack the Christian religion so violently or scornfully as to offend Christians to such an extent that breach of the peace was likely, he contended.

In July last year a jury at

# SNP 'does not

From Our Own Correspondent  
Edinburgh

The Scottish National Party yesterday launched its general election manifesto with a lyrical speech by Mr. William Ross, the party chairman. He described the Scottish assembly as lying among the foothills of the independent range.

The document outlined the party's policies to be pursued in

## Two in hot water with Eskimo Nell

Two men at Powys County Council's computer centre in Llandrindod Wells have been disciplined for taking part in producing the bawdy poem, "Eskimo Nell", at the centre on local government computer paper.

Another bawdy poem, "Ernie-Mark II", was also produced at the centre. The council said members of the public had been requesting copies of "Eskimo Nell".

## Doctor is admonished

Dr Barry Peatfield, aged 41, of Langley Park Road, Sutton, Surrey, was admonished yesterday by the General Medical Council's disciplinary committee.

The committee made the ruling in London a year after finding him guilty of serious professional misconduct for the second time in 12 months. Judgment was postponed to both cases.

## SNP 'does not want to break up UK'

**From Our Own Correspondent  
Edinburgh**

The Scottish National Party yesterday launched its general election manifesto with a lyrical speech by Mr William Wolfe, the party chairman. He described the Scottish assembly as lying among the foothills of the independent range.

The document outlined the party's policies to be pursued in

## Welsh language supporters' court ejection

From Tim Jones  
Carmarthen :  
Supporters of the Welsh  
Language Society were ejected  
from Carmarthen Crown Court  
yesterday, after they had  
been told a conspiracy to defame  
Judge Morgan Hughes, left as about  
fifty supporters stamped,  
shouted and threw paper darts.  
Gruffydd Rhodri Williams,  
aged 22, the society's chairman,  
and Dafydd Wynford James,  
aged 23, plead not guilty to a  
charge of conspiring together  
and with persons unknown to  
defame the judge by means of  
conspiracy installations.  
After the demonstrators had  
been ejected they stood outside  
the courtroom calling for a  
fourth television channel for  
Wales.

## Americans' QE2 cruise cancelled

Fifteen hundred Americans have been told that their pre-Christmas cruise to the Caribbean on board the liner Queen Elizabeth 2. has been cancelled.

The liner, which is in dry dock in Southampton having a £3m overhaul, needs major repairs to a boiler which cannot be completed in time.

## Prison officers work to rule

About 2,000 prisoners in four Scottish jails were locked in their cells for longer than normal periods yesterday because of an unofficial work-to-rule by prison officers. The officers are seeking to have the segregation units at Porterfield prison, Inverness, brought back into use for disruptive prisoners.

## revenge' rape e gang

knife. She was raped at knife-point at least three times while the two members of the gang committed other sexual offenses with her, Mr. Mott said.

Four teenagers appeared in the dock. Two, aged 18, were accused of raping the woman on July 20. A third, aged 19, was charged with attempted rape, indecent assault, theft of £14 and handling stolen goods. The fourth defendant, aged 17, was charged with indecent assault, attempted bodily harm. All four pleaded all charges.

The woman said that three men raped her and two of them then made her commit indecent acts.

"They were talking about themselves and continuing to have sex with me. I was very violent. I did not cooperate. I felt fear and humiliation. Then they let newspapers to find their grass cutlery and things and left."

The hearing continues today.

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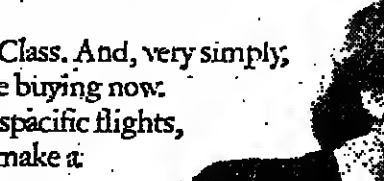
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## Ministry demands full £775 to be repaid in benefits fraud case

From Our Correspondent

Barbara Hazel Fitter, aged 26, was accused in Sheffield Magistrates' Court yesterday of three offences of making false representations to obtain benefit from the Department of Health and Social Security. She asked for 45 similar cases to be taken into consideration.

Mr Roy Barlow, for the prosecution, told the magistrates: "This is a new departure by the department so that it can make application for the whole amount wrongfully obtained to be claimed in compensation."

Miss Fitter, of Rosemary Road, Beighton, near Sheffield, pleaded guilty to making two false statements on specified dates, but Mr Barlow said the offences had been going on for a period and the total amount claimed in compensation was £775.10.

Miss Fitter had falsely stated she was a member of her uncle's household in Poplar Avenue, Beighton, when a man was living with her at her home in Rosemary Road.

The Bench adjourned the case until December 13 for her circumstances to be investigated more fully.

In another case Gwyneth Marian Guest, aged 33, of Strubbin Lane, Sheffield, was said to have wrongfully obtained £2,585.32 by false statements, but the department claimed £292.31 compensation. She pleaded guilty and was put on probation for two years and ordered to repay the amount claimed.

Our Social Services Correspondent writes: The department's policy was defined in its annual report, published on October 19, which disclosed that the number of prosecutions for benefit fraud had increased by 36.6 per cent between 1976 and the year to February, 1978.

The report said: "Priority is being given to prevention, and close cooperation is maintained with the police and the Post Office. Vigorous measures are being taken to recover compensation through the courts from those who have gained by fraud."

## Local health plan 'was undermined'

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

The Civil Service is responsible for the over-centralized bureaucracy that controls the National Health Service, Dr Stuart Horner, a community physician professionally trained in management, says today.

The proposal that effective power and responsibility should devolve on local units, made at the time of the NHS reorganization in 1974, was resisted and undermined by the Civil Service, he says in the British Medical Association's *News Review*, sent monthly to all doctors.

A structure had thus been implemented that was the exact opposite of the organizational framework needed by health care workers to provide a service for patients.

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, had the impossible task of responsibility for a department of one of the biggest industries in Western Europe. That led to an unacceptable centralized bureaucracy in the health service.

Yet more successful departments, notably education, were decentralized. Nationalized industries had also recognized the value of local initiative.

Dr Horner says lack of cooperation between central government departments on health matters has reached the point where some departments work in opposition to NHS objectives.

Despite commitments to preventive medicine in 1974, little had been done in practice.

## In brief

### Firm fined over waste disposal

E. Bottomley and Sons Ltd, of Bradley West Yorkshire, pleaded guilty at Huddersfield Magistrates' Court yesterday to employing chemical refuse into a sewer where it could be prejudicial to health and to discharging it without consent. The firm's dyeworks, was fined £750 with £75 costs.

Mr John Bastow, for the prosecution, said two families living near the sewer had had to leave their homes temporarily.

### Libel damages for Tory MP

Mr John Stokes, Conservative MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, yesterday accepted an undisclosed sum of damages and his costs in settlement of a libel action over a *Daily Mail* article relating to his absence from Westminster.

The newspaper apologized to him unreservedly. Mr Justice O'Connor, sitting in the High Court, agreed to the record of the action being withdrawn.

### National Front official for trial

Martin Webster, activities organizer of the National Front, was committed yesterday for trial at Kingston Crown Court on two charges of publishing written matters that were abusive or insulting.

Richmond magistrates granted bail. The charges refer to two editions of *National Front News* of which Mr Webster is editor.

Whitehall brief: Front line of defence put on the map by an advance in Russian technology

## Modern Maginot Line with Phantoms, radar and tin hats

By Peter Hennessy

Relaxing over a cup of tea in a wooden hut behind the sand dunes on the western side of the island of Benbecula, in the Outer Hebrides, it is difficult to accept that one is in the front line of any future war between Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

To be sure, there are members of the RAF peering at incomprehensible screens just down the corridor and two big air defence radars scanning the leaden north Atlantic, which is just over the barbed wire. But there is not the slightest trace of the feeling that George Formby used to describe as "sitting on a mine in the Maginot Line".

Thanks to the great improvement in Soviet air strike capacity with the development of the Tupolev Backfire bomber, Benbecula is ever more important in the scheme of things as these dreadful aircraft come into service.

Squadron Leader James Conolly, the Commanding Officer of RAF Benbecula,

describes the Backfire as: "A much upgraded threat. We are no longer just looking east. Our job is equally as important as any radar station in the South-east."

Planners at the Ministry of Defence in London are well aware that the Backfire can leave its base at Murmansk in the Arctic, refuel in the north Atlantic from a tanker aircraft and sweep into British airspace from the north-west, jeopardizing Nato's "unsinkable aircraft carrier", the United Kingdom, upon whose "deck" 40 per cent of Nato's combat and supply aircraft will be based if international relations turn nasty.

Benbecula's job, with other parts of the air defence network, is to pick up the Backfire swiftly enough to alert RAF Phantoms of the Quick Reaction Alert Force at Leuchars, on the east coast of Scotland. In a future war, the aircraft would be Tornados, provided they were in service, rather closer to the action at a secret forward base.

The plan is for a Tornado to

shoot down a Backfire 500 miles out, so the danger people of Benbecula will have little to watch by way of off-the-fight in the Hebridean skies as they prepare to meet their maker.

At present, RAF Benbecula is vulnerable to pre-emptive strike, as it is above ground and unprotected by missiles, though its scanners are mobile, and no doubt reliable cover might be arranged in a period of international tension.

RAF Benbecula, however, have no hats on hooks above their desks and screens.

A 15-year, £1,500m plan to rebuild Britain's air defences, however, should take care of all that. Voice links will be replaced by more secure, automatic data links to other parts of the network, and the whole thing will become computerized, putting Strike Command at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, in a much stronger position.

If the Russians can be persuaded to wait, at least until 1985, RAF Benbecula will have a new and improved radar "somewhere on a more elevated part of the island" and "hardened" operations room embedded in blastproof concrete.

In the meantime, they will remain ever their metaphorical mine in the Maginot Line, noting the passage of Bear bombers en route from the Soviet Union to Cuba and calling their wings at anything Russian that tries to come in a little closer.

If asked what they will do if one keeps on coming they get embarrassed and explain that the most they can say is that there is a carefully graduated response for that sort of thing. Last year Benbecula picked up all unidentified aircraft in its sector in good time, including one or two that tried to penetrate directly and were turned away by Phantoms.

The tin hats do come in useful once a year when, without warning, a small team disembark from the Macbrayne ferry from the mainland, march up to the front door and announce: "You are now at war." A little later, they cheer

everybody up" by adding: "You are now at nuclear war."

All day Squadron Leader Conolly's men have to plot RAF Jaguars, Vulcans and the like coming towards them at high speed, pretending to be Russians.

Meanwhile, one section of his staff will rush down the road to the Royal Armory armoury to receive firearms. For that night, they will be a quiet cup of tea, which he will come when the lights go out, the fifth columnists.

They crawl out of the sand dunes and try to penetrate the barbed wire.

For once the place really does resemble the Maginot Line. What any passing sea bird or croaker makes of it all defies the imagination. But if it helps to keep the "unsinkable aircraft carrier" unsunk, it is worth every last mug of Bourneville that is lost.

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## Royal parks food is still poor, panel say

By Robin Young

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

To be well fed in London royal parks is as hard to get as a second year judo set to find the best caterers for humans in parks have returned with glum news that none of the taster's is good enough merit an award.

Last year's judges felt able giving nothing better than a commendation "for trying", said that the general state of catering in the parks "lamentable". None of it could be persuaded this year repeat the experience of 1 anonymous tour of inspect.

A new panel fared a little better; it succeeded in finding a winner in the cafeteria, the judges but resolved at Hyde Park. It also commended the Penbrook Lodge restaurant in Richmond Park, for cheapness, if not the quality of its £180 three-course lunch.

Mr William Adkins, a consulting consultant representing British Tourist Authority, the judges but resolved at Hyde Park. It also commended the Penbrook Lodge restaurant in Richmond Park, for cheapness, if not the quality of its £180 three-course lunch.

Mr Ray Brett, president of the Hotel Catering and Institutional Management Association, added that staff were easy please and helpful, but in training.

"For instance, they do know what to do with your dishes, and in heavy prior service they lose control of situation. Things like clean down are not taught properly."

Mrs Gladys Easton, driver's wife, said she had been disappointed that restaurants did not offer price children's portions.

Lady Birk, the minister, the Department of the Environment responsible for the parks, who instigated the petition after complaints a catering standards, said thought caterers had a some effort but still had a way to go.

The caterers will be given confidential reports of judges' findings on each establishment, and in future department hopes to cater concessions, generally run for five years more competitive and to stricter control over quality.

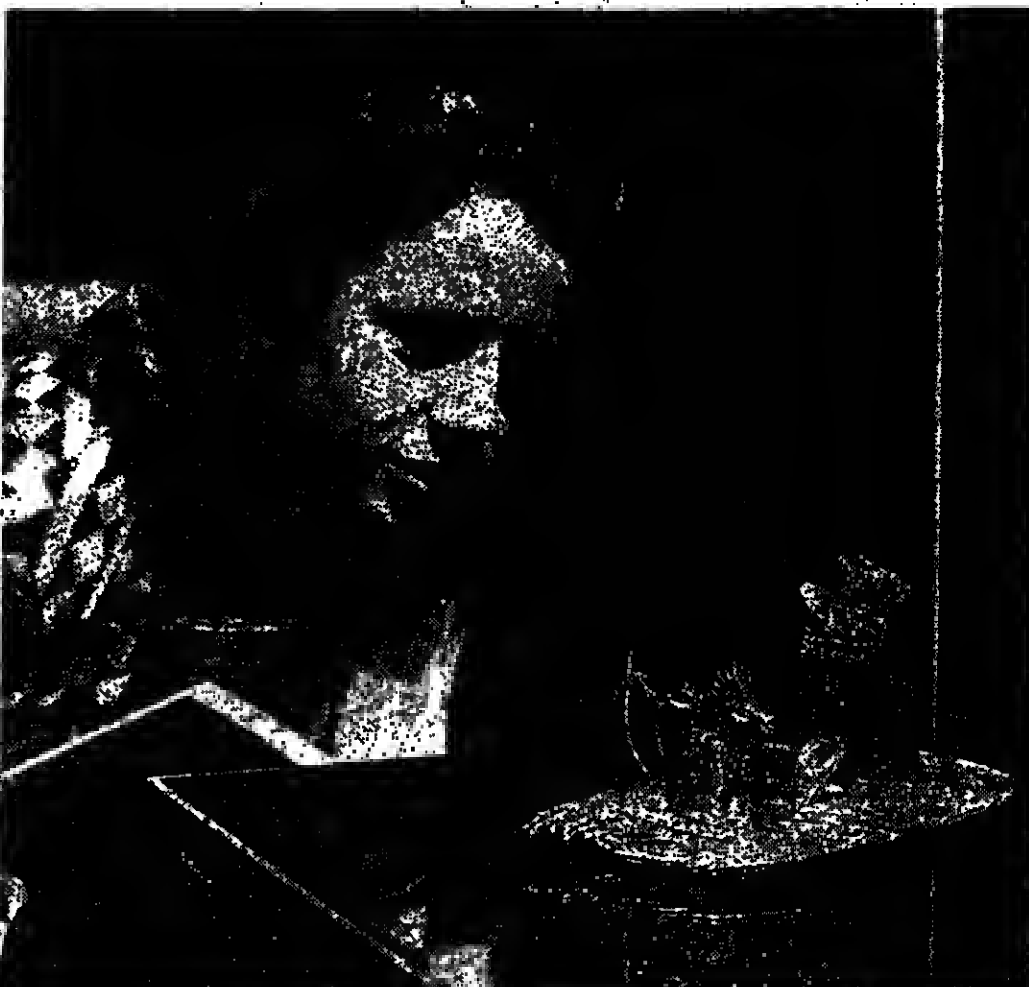
### Teenagers beat dog to death

The teenagers, two boys and one girl, who beat a dog by lashing it with a chain, were sent to a day centre for three months. Magistrates at Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court yesterday.

The dog had followed at home, and they kicked it, tied its legs with a chain, and dragged it to a field. The dog was found dead, and the dog's owner was told. A broken pelvis and skull fractures.

### Earth mover sinks

Joy riders were blamed yesterday for stealing earth-moving machine valued at £15,000 from a brickyard in Stoke-on-Trent, driving it into a clay pit, it sank in 60ft of water.



An exhibit, The Muisca tunjo, depicting The ceremony of El Dorado

## Twins who fired at coloured men get 6 years

Two brothers who fired a shotgun at a group of coloured men in Wolverhampton were jailed for six years yesterday.

Geoffrey Davies and his twin brother, Terence, had the shotgun in their car because they thought they might go poaching. Mr Piers Ashworth, QC, for the prosecution, said, but they found a "better quarry".

The twins, aged 24, chased the group of youths, who were on foot, in their car and several shots were fired. Two of the coloured men were hit by shotgun pellets.

After the incident last May, extra police were drafted into the town to patrol the streets for fear of racial violence.

Geoffrey Davies, of Stafford Road, and Terence Davies, of Windsor Street, both Wolverhampton, pleaded guilty at Warley Crown Court, West Midlands, to wounding Peter Jamieson with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and assaulting Mr Levi Harvey, causing him actual bodily harm.

Mr Robert Solomon, for the defence, said that on the evening in question the brothers had been drinking and were not motivated, because both brothers had been brought up with coloured friends.

The recorder, Mr Christopher Stuart-White, told the twins that he thought their minds were not poisoned by racial prejudice before the incident.

## 13 protesters arrested at nuclear plant site

From Our Own Correspondent

Thirteen protesters were arrested yesterday after huddlers and earthmovers had been obstructed at the Torness nuclear power station site, in East Lothian. Police Sergeant Jack Abbott, of Edinburgh, was injured in an accident with a lorry.

A nurse taking part in the protest, which involved members of the Torness Alliance, the Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace and Friends of the Earth, gave medical assistance and Sergeant Abbott was taken to hospital. He was not seriously injured.

About three hundred demonstrators, some from abroad, had gathered at the site of the £740m power station during the weekend and were waiting for the contractors when they arrived to start work.

As a heavy tractor shovel moved towards the site chanting protesters sat down in its path. The tractor kept moving until two protesters were lying underneath the vehicle and between its tracks. Police began dragging men and women out of the way but as quickly as they removed one group of demonstrators another group took their place.

## Housewives urged to support the arts

A coherent and organized arts lobby similar to those in Canada and the United States is needed in Britain, Mr Roy Shaw, the secretary-general of the Arts Council, said in London yesterday.

Speaking of the council's annual report, Mr Shaw said that in America middle-class housewives were a driving force for the promoting the arts, but that did not happen in Britain.

Mr Kenneth Robinson, the council's chairman, said there was a misplaced feeling in local government that there were no votes to be gained from spending on the arts. But there were

many more votes and much more enthusiasm than most local councillors realized.

Mr Shaw said that the council's report showed that in the year 1977-78 £2m more than the £42m provided would have transformed the position.

Less than 10 per cent of British spent on arts in Western country. In the year 1976-77 central and local government together contributed less than 50p a head, compared with £7 in West Germany and Sweden's £4.

Until government funding of arts was raised to a realistic level, the directors of theatre,

opera and ballet companies and the rest of the arts would continue to spend much of their time and effort contriving to manage on 10p, and not enough of basic task of providing the possible artistic products.

Any minister for the arts would have to face the reality that the ranks of the staves were large, and well resented in some sections press, Parliament and government.

A Year of Achievement report published by the Arts Council, London, W1V 5DP, postage 30p.

## Paradoxical advantage of Scotland's shabby giant

Scattered and impoverished in the west, oil-rich and wealthy in the east, that is the popular view that this flow government assistance in Scotland firmly towards Glasgow.

Estimates suggest that since the Second World War £12,000m has been poured on in the crowded environment of urban Strathclyde, but Glasgow has become the west's monopoly of dereliction and social decay that other regions of Scotland see Glasgow as holding a paradoxical advantage.

Parts of the city and its frayed outskirts might well rank among the worst examples of urban decay in Europe, but cuts in government spending have made other local authorities perhaps less patient with the shabby giant in the west.

They see costly improvements "which appear to have made the city's position even worse, injudicious housing schemes, a motorway isolating the heart, and a zest for demolition that has reduced large areas to deserts of rubble."

Social engineering had either failed or succeeded too well. New slums had been created, or rafteries were decanted to the satellite new towns, leaving local authority debts and interest charges to pile up. A large part of the Scottish

### Regional report

#### Ronald Faux Glasgow

Development Agency's spending on land improvement is going to the east end of Glasgow. Come 1984 and the expenditure of at least £100m and the Glasgow Eastern Area Renewal (Gear) will have transformed 3,500 acres of derelict city fringe. It is hoped that the albatross will have flown away, but lesser varieties will be then be roosting in other parts of Scotland.

Councillor Cornelius Waugh, chairman of the housing committee on Edinburgh District Council and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, explained that Edinburgh's crisis was not in obvious dereliction, but a more subtle crumbling away of a great heritage.

Parts of the city centre which were an important international tourist attraction could fall apart soon unless money is spent on them. If we wait until the signs are obvious the cost will be hugely increased. Edinburgh earns a lot from tourism.

Glasgow attracts hardly a penny."

Councillor Waugh thought the national heritage of Edinburgh should not be undermined entirely on the people of the city. Glasgow received national money but where, he asked was the heritage in derelict gap sites? The west had difficulties, but "you could say we are being discriminated against because we have managed our affairs so well."

New cost limits for housing improvements had given substantial increases to Glasgow. Mr John Davidson, of the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, said that the reason was the higher cost of improving property in the west.

The original design and building standard made it more expensive. The fabric was likely to be well maintained. Chimneys and slates crashed into the street more often, and added to everything was the windier and wetter weather.

Improvements to properties in Strathclyde number 2,500, compared with 1,100 for the whole of the rest of Scotland. Glasgow, however, lost on new building. Large parts of the city were built on old, uncharted misworkings, which kept collapsing.

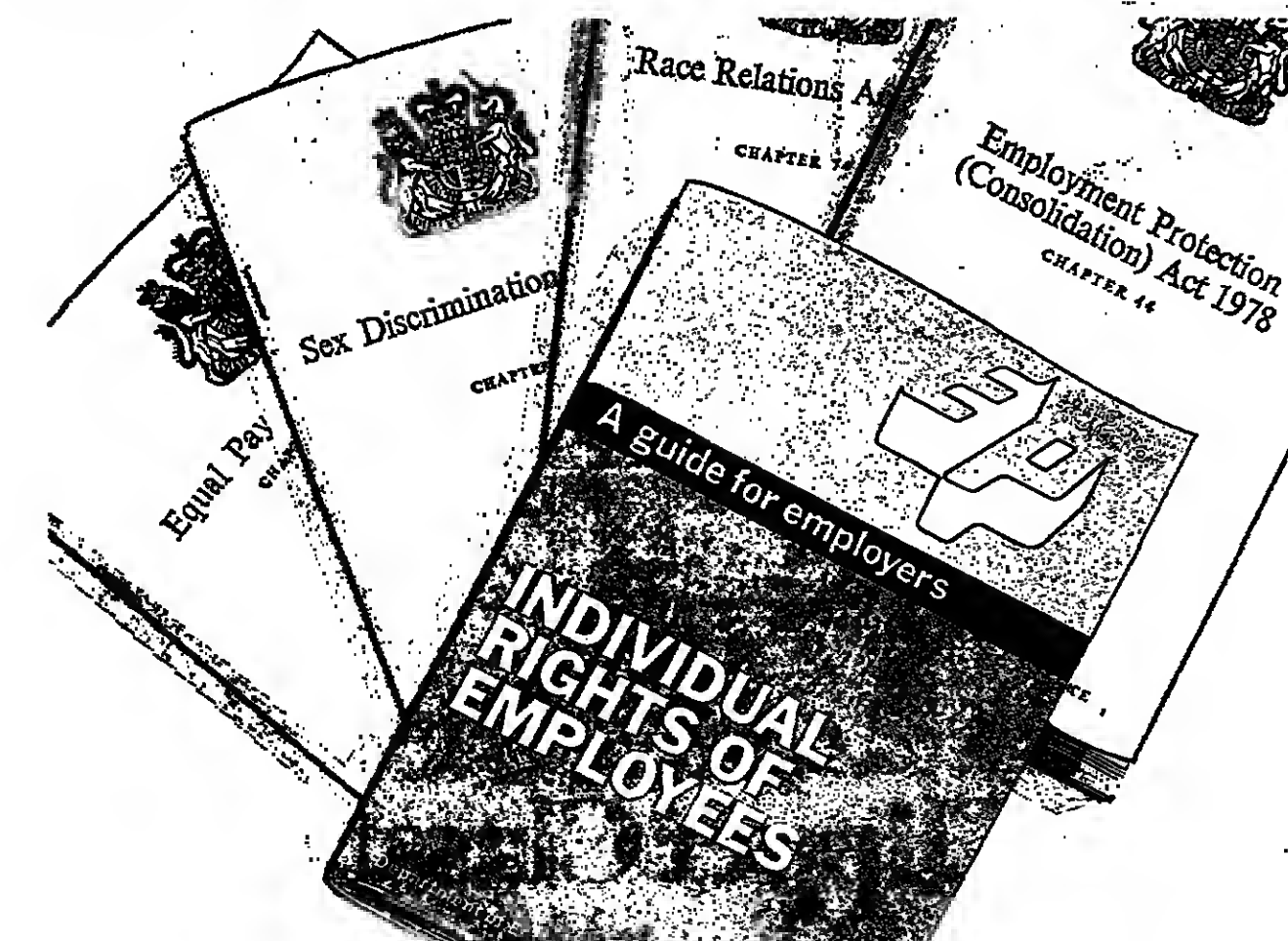
"We should like to do because the need is so great," Mr Davidson said. "People in the rest of Scotland will feel Glasgow brought difficulties on but the fact remained it was necessary to give the lion's share."

In the Grampian region, where North S has brought a different problem, there is sharp about the power Strathclyde could have in the St assembly to draw yet more resources in a westward drift.

Mr Alexander Murdoch, a member of Grampian Regional Council, said the council had been obliged to spend £2m on new roads, schools, housing and other facilities.

They had received in only £15m, and ratepayers from the pit companies deducted from the region support grant, leaving a deficit of £25.5m to pay for improvements and the G ment had refused to under the borrowing.

Altogether, we are a little less. It seems the authority is based in the or, like the SDA (Scottish Development Agency), in the they forget that the north exists."



# This guide is free. Can you afford to be without it?

If you run a business, then it is in your interests to know all about the rights of your employees. This new guide explains in a clear, concise way all the main points of the various Acts that govern the rights of your employees. And you can run your business far more efficiently if you know about unfair dismissal, the rights of expectant mothers, equal pay, discrimination and so on.

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Department of Employment



## EUROPE

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a long-standing prac-  
ce France-Press.

adige poll  
Nov. 20.—Italy's  
Christian Democratic  
ffered major losses in  
s elections in the  
glio of Trentino-Alto  
cording to first results  
today.



M. Patrick Modiano: Tried for the prize several times.

## Goncourt is decided on third ballot

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Nov 20

The Prix Goncourt, France's  
leading literary award, was won  
today by M. Patrick Modiano for  
his novel *Rue des boutiques*.  
It took three ballots  
to determine the outcome.

The Theophrastus Renaudot  
Prize, a kind of runner-up to  
the Goncourt, was won by M.  
Jean-Denis Woffmann, who  
wrote *L'herbe*. It was a much  
more modest award.

Modiano, 36, is a young  
author who has written several  
novels. His work is characterized  
by a sense of mystery and  
a focus on the individual's  
experience.

He will now call on the  
Cabinet to drop its resistance  
to a phrase in the treaty's  
reamble which may be seen  
as linking the treaty to the  
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## OVERSEAS

## Battle for Transvaal leadership divides National Party

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, Nov 20

An unseemly public battle  
has broken out over who is to  
succeed Dr. Connie Mulder, the  
former Minister of Plural Rela-  
tions, as leader of the Trans-  
vaal wing of the ruling  
National Party.

Dr Mulder resigned both  
posts in the wake of the  
Department of Information  
scandal. He was informed  
Minister until the department  
was scrapped earlier this year.

The dispute, which is both  
ideological—between Ver-  
kramptes (hardliners) and Ver-  
ligtes (enlightened National-  
ists)—and regional—between  
the Transvaal wing of the  
party and the other three pro-  
vinces—is the most profound  
to have afflicted the party  
since it came to power 30  
years ago.

The Transvaal has tradi-  
tionally dominated the party.  
Until Mr. Pieter Botha, the  
Cape leader, was elected Prime  
Minister in September, the  
party's leader, with the excep-  
tion of Dr. D. F. Malan, the  
first Nationalist Prime Minis-  
ter, had always come from the

Transvaal. The Transvaal  
leader is the most important  
man in the party after the  
Prime Minister.

The Transvaal Party commit-  
tee is due to meet this Satur-  
day and the man who at  
present seems most likely to  
succeed Dr. Mulder is Dr.  
Andries Treurnicht, Deputy  
Minister of Plural Relations.

Dr. Treurnicht has rigidly  
doctrinaire views about the  
execution of the apartheid  
policy, which differ fundamen-  
tally from Mr. Botha's more  
pragmatic approach.

The only other two candi-  
dates at the moment are Mr.  
Hendrik Schoeman, Minister of  
Agriculture, and Mr. S. P.  
Botha, Minister of Labour.

Dr. Treurnicht and the Prime  
Minister have already clashed  
publicly, with Dr. Treurnicht  
insisting that the proposed tri-  
racial Cabinet Council would  
only have consultative powers,  
and the Prime Minister declar-  
ing that the new body (consist-  
ing of whites, Coloureds and In-  
dians) would have legislative  
and other powers. This was  
already party policy, Mr. Botha  
said, and he hoped it would  
be the last word on the subject.

The crisis had been deep-  
ened by a separate dispute be-  
tween Dr. Mulder and Mr. R. F.  
Botha, the Foreign Minister,  
who had been blamed by Dr.  
Mulder's supporters for throw-  
ing his support behind Mr.  
Pieter Botha, thereby ensuring  
his victory over Dr. Mulder in  
the contest to succeed Mr.  
Vorster as Prime Minister.

The Foreign Minister told a  
rally at the weekend that docu-  
mentary evidence on the In-  
formation Department's scandal,  
handed to him and other  
Cabinet Ministers just before  
the election, persuaded him to  
vote for Mr. Pieter Botha. He  
said the evidence was "atroci-  
ous" if true, and that he and  
other ministers had confronted  
Dr. Mulder with it.

Dr. Mulder has now sharply  
accused Mr. R. F. Botha of  
being one-sided.

The Adriaans press has also  
waded into the battle with the  
influential rapport declaring  
that the election of Dr. Treur-  
nicht would lead to "great  
adversity" for the National  
Party as a whole. Even Die  
Transvaler, mouthpiece of the  
party in the Transvaal, has  
opposed his candidature.

Mr. Begin pledges Israel  
to sign 'unchanged' treaty

From Michael Knipe  
Jerusalem, Nov 20

The Israeli Cabinet resumes  
its deliberations on the peace  
negotiations with Egypt to-  
morrow. Mr. Menachem Begin,  
the Prime Minister, has indicated  
that it will probably drop  
several reservations and  
declare its readiness to sign the  
draft treaty, as long as Egypt  
also withdraws its latest  
demands.

Addressing the 700-member  
central committee of his Herut  
Party, which heads the govern-  
ing coalition, Mr. Begin made it  
clear he expects the Cabinet to  
endorse his view that the draft  
treaty should be accepted as it  
stood three weeks ago.

In spite of being pelted with  
eggs by right-wing demon-  
strators as he arrived and  
emotional attacks by some of  
his oldest political allies, Mr.  
Begin won resounding backing  
for his policy by 306 votes to  
51.

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## Zambians find body of missing woman

From Our Correspondent  
Lusaka, Nov 20

The body of an elderly  
Canadian-born woman has been  
discovered eight days after she  
disappeared from her farm on  
the outskirts of Lusaka.

A government statement  
released today said the body of  
Miss Muriel Bissel, aged 67, was  
found on Saturday "within the  
grounds of her house". Diplo-  
matic sources said the cause of  
death was unknown. A post-  
mortem examination will be  
held tomorrow.

The manager of the farm, a  
Shona-speaking black Rhodesian  
whose name has not been  
released, and three others have  
been arrested in connexion with  
the death.

Property belonging to Miss  
Bissel was allegedly found at  
the home of the farm manager's  
parents, the government state-  
ment said.

The farm is located at Botha's  
Rust about 12 miles west of  
Lusaka. The farming enclave  
contains a number of camps run  
by Mr. Joshua Nkomo's Zim-  
babwe African People's Union  
(Zapu).

Since Rhodesia attacked a  
supply depot in the area op-  
November 2, several farmers  
have been harassed by armed  
men, believed to be guerrillas.  
At one farm near that on which  
Miss Bissel lived, two Britons  
and an Australian were dragged  
off and beaten. The Australian  
was hung by his hands and  
bayoneted in the feet.

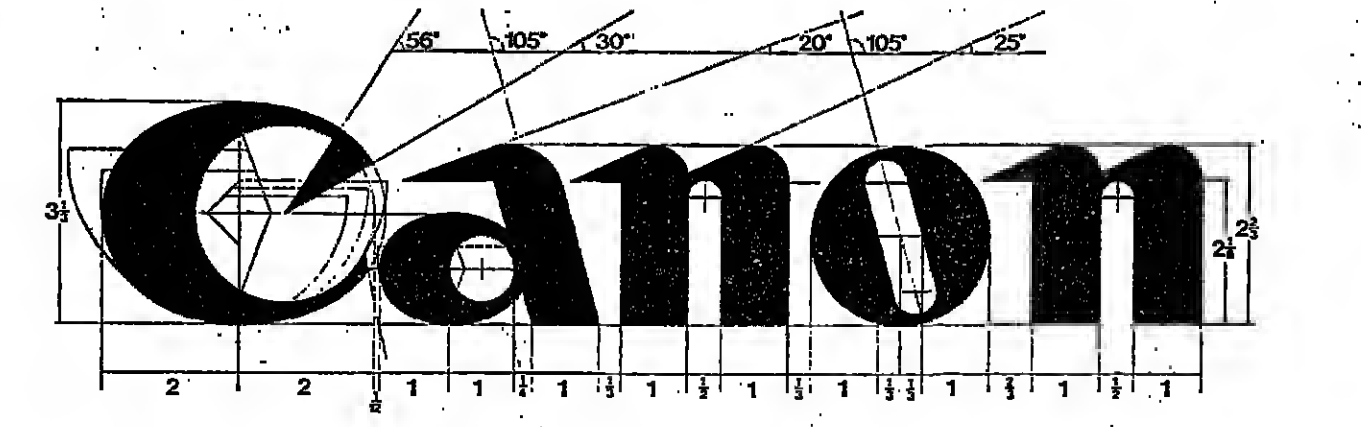
Even Moscow  
is having a  
warm autumn

From Our Own Correspondent  
Moscow, Nov 20

Moscow is experiencing an  
unusual autumn heatwave.  
Yesterday, the temperature rose  
to a comfortable 9.2°C (48°F),  
the highest according to the  
Meteorological Office, at this  
time of year for more than a  
century. In 1880 the tempera-  
ture reached 8°C (46°F) on  
November 19.

By mid-November Moscow is  
usually blanketed with snow.  
But though the first snow fell  
here nearly a month ago, it soon  
melted as the weather began to  
warm up unseasonably. Yester-  
day, people were wearing only  
light coats in the bright sun.

Older Muscovites often com-  
plain that their city does not get  
the "real" hard winters it used  
to have before numerous reser-  
voirs were built on the out-  
skirts of the city. Meteorologists  
agree that the climate has  
become more temperate in  
recent years.



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## Boycott threat to Oberammergau

From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, Nov 20

The American branch of the  
International Council of Jews  
and Christians has threatened  
to call a boycott of the  
Oberammergau passion play  
unless the village changes what  
the council regards as an anti-  
semitic text.

The threat has stirred afresh  
the controversy of last March  
when the inhabitants elected a  
village council strongly in  
favour of keeping the much-  
criticized text used for the  
past century.

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past century.

This text, written in 1860 by  
Father Alois Daisenberg, who  
was the village priest,

reflects the view prevalent  
then that the Jews as a race  
were responsible for the mur-  
der of Jesus Christ.

Changes in the Roman Catho-  
lic Church's teaching since the  
1962-65 Vatican Council promp-  
ted a group of reformers to  
propose replacing the Daisen-  
berger text with an earlier one  
by a local Benedictine monk,  
Father Ferdinand Rosner.

Although written a century  
earlier, it is much closer to  
modern attitudes.

The boycott threat has been  
made as Cardinal Joseph Ratz-  
inger, of Munich, is studying  
proposals by a group appointed  
by the village council to  
change the more offensive pas-  
sages in the Daisenberg text.

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by the village council to  
change the more offensive pas-  
sages in the Daisenberg text.

"I believe that we have  
found a solution which will  
suit everyone," Herr Ernst  
Zwink, Mayor of Oberammer-  
gau, said. But Rabbi Peter  
Levinson, the outgoing presi-  
dent of the International Coun-  
cil of Jews and Christians, is  
doubtful. "I feel that cosmic  
changes are not going to do  
very much. The whole play is  
based on the idea of the guilt  
of the Jews. It depends on it  
for its dramatic effect."

The threat of a boycott by  
the American branch, which  
Rabbi Levinson passed on at a  
Munich at the weekend, has  
made members of the local  
Jewish community unhappy.  
"I do not know any Jew here  
who would be 'favour'," one  
source said.

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advisory committee  
review of

## Britain swallows the quality product

Attractive wines are grown in the south of France, and that inexpensive wine from the region of the Gironde is now well above a hundred. Most of the old-established bodegas, such as Murrietas, Riscal, López de Heredia and La Rioja Alta are now represented; and a recent addition has been Cune (Compañía Vinícola del Norte de España), whose wines, among those most highly regarded by the Spaniards themselves, are now being shipped by Direct Wine Suppliers, of Hatfield.

Again, in terms of large-scale imports of fine wines, the great Spanish conglomerate, Ramasa, is making its influence felt, not only by its acquisition of the famous sherry firms of Williams and Humbert and Carver, but also by the importation of wines from Penedas, Bodegas Franco-Españolas through firms associated with its English subsidiary, Augustus Barnard.

Concurrently, many excellent Rioja wines from smaller bodegas are now being shipped by specialized firms. A good example is Muga, made with dedication by a small family concern and shipped by the equally dedicated Sherron Wine Company, of Malmesbury.

Catalan wines, too, are now reaching the United Kingdom in large quantities. Codorní and Freixner have for some time had a wide appeal as most acceptable sparkling wines made by the champagne method. Promotion of the still wines has been spearheaded by Bodegas Torres, of Penedas, another family concern, scrupulously above high quality and with signal success, experimenting with the introduction of various varieties of French vine to the area.

A few years ago it would have been unthinkable to encounter the lesser-known Spanish regional wines in England, and this is another area in which progress is being made. Pioneers in this have been Laymont and Shaw, of Falmouth, who among their list of some 80 wines from all over Spain, include examples from Navarra, Galicia and Levante, and have successfully reintroduced a classical dessert malaga in the famous and unforgettable Solera Scholtz 1885.

If the inexpensive branded bottles have met the requirements of the understanding wine drinker, who as often as not likes his white wine sweet, the more recondite table wines with a denomination

of origin have established a reputation for decent quality and value—something more in the case of the more select growers. In the face of something like an explosion in imports—promoted not least by the energy of the new Rioja Wine Information Centre, which is at the moment organizing trade missions to the length and breadth of the country—the question which must concern the aficionado is whether traditional standards can be maintained.

The Rioja is a case in point. Expansion in the area has taken place not only in response to increased exports, but also to meet a rising demand for good quality bottled wine from domestic consumers. Numerous new bodegas, some with a capacity of more than 15 million litres, have been constructed by interests as different as the banks, the sherry firm of Pedro Domecq (which has acquired its own vineyards) and a large steel company. Even the old bodegas have traditionally bought a proportion of their grapes from small farmers, and some of the new concerns are now blending and aging cooperatively-made wine rather than vinifying the grapes themselves.

Nevertheless, the requirements of the *reglamento*, originally issued in November, 1970, such as the aging of the matured Crianza wines for a minimum period of two years, have in no way been relaxed. Rumours to the contrary have perhaps arisen because of the recent availability in England of inexpensive *crianza* (without aging), which may legitimately be sold and exported, provided it is made clear on the label that they are young wines.

In other regions of Spain, thanks to modern methods and the introduction of up-to-date plant, there have been significant improvements in quality. As Cyrus Redding said long ago in pointing out how nineteenth-century Spanish methods of wine-making lagged behind those of France: "With every disadvantage in the process of the making, there are both red and white wines in Spain of surpassing excellence." It is likely that technical improvements and vigilance on the part of the authorities will increase their number.

Jan Read is the author of *Wines of Spain and Portugal*.

Standard of quality are controlled by a central Instituto Nacional de Denominaciones de Origen, which delegates its authority to *consejos reguladores* operating in the 24 regions of the country best known for their wines. Each *consejo regulador*, which numbers representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and local growers and merchants, lays down its local requirements for matters such as the boundaries of its area, cultivation and grape varieties, yield per hectare, methods of vinification, aging, alcohol content and freedom of the wine from defects and contaminants. Its regulations are policed by inspectors who pay frequent visits to vineyards and wineries.

Above average wines which meet the requirements are granted a *denominación de origen* (corresponding to the French *appellation d'origine*) which is the champagne method. Promotion of the still wines has been spearheaded by Bodegas Torres, of Penedas, another family concern, scrupulously above high quality and with signal success, experimenting with the introduction of various varieties of French vine to the area.

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# SPANISH WINES

## Sherry: there is nothing like the real thing

by Julian Jeffs

Sherry is flattered by many imitators but there is nothing as good as the real thing. It is surely the most underrated wine in the world. It is a great wine, yet clearly always it is taken for granted and badly served.

Any great wine must be selected carefully and served properly. To judge sherry by the rapid thimblefuls of tired, cheap wine served in public houses is like judging the wines of Bordeaux by the cheapest bottle on the shelves of the local supermarket. It may well give pleasure, but it will not compare with a mature vintage of Château Latour.

Sherry is made from vines grown in snow-white chalk downlands in Andalusia: a landscape like that of the Berkshire Downs above Lambourn. It is this soil, and the baking hot climate, which gives the wine its unique character.

Sherry is remarkably good value—perhaps better than it has ever been. In 1961, Harveys of Bristol were selling their Luncheon Dry Fino sherry for 17s a bottle. Now it costs £1.69, and less for large orders. In those days, a bottle of Beaulais 1959 cost 3s 3d. Today a bottle of Beaulais Villages 1976 costs £2.09. Good French wines have become expensive partly because of the decline of sterling; good Spanish wines have remained reasonable, partly because the peseta too has declined. But there is no denying that with sherry you get what you pay for.

This article assumes that the reader is prepared to pay for the best—a real amontillado, not one of the cheap medium sherries that disgrace the name. The cheapest is rarely the best value, and with sherry it never is. On the other hand,

beware of highly advertised artificially expensive wines aimed at a snob market; they are rarely worth it.

One of the most pleasing features of a good sherry is its fragrance. The bouquet provides one of the greatest elements of pleasure; the wine should be savoured and appreciated before it is drunk. Those awful pieces of glassware that are often sold as sherry glasses do not give the wine a chance, especially the worst kind which go the wrong way in the middle. The most important thing about a sherry glass is that it should be big enough, so that it will hold an adequate measure without being more than half full, and preferably less.

A copita is ideal for this: the sherry occupies a quarter or a third of it and in the space above, where the glass narrows, the bouquet collects. Shaka a good sherry in such a glass beneath your nose and smell carefully. You will see what I mean. It introduces the wine for the taste buds to appreciate.

And sherry should never be served warm; if it is, the flavour is spoiled. The lightest kinds of sherry—manzanilla and fino—should always be chilled, which does not mean frozen. The other kinds are best served just a little below room temperature by keeping them, for instance, in a cool corner.

Manzanilla and fino should be completely dry. Some of the cheaper ones are not and they should be avoided. There are few things more appalling than a glass of one of the better types, which really call for food.

In Spain, a glass of fino is always served with a *tapa*; a little morsel of food of any kind, such as a shrimp, a slice of salmon, or a little bit of cheese. Nothing could be easier to do and it makes no immense difference to the pleasure. But there is no need to limit the food to a *tapa*. My favourite working luncheon is a meaty sandwich and a large glass of fino sherry. It is the least



The inn at Puerto Lápice in La Mancha, the scene of Don Quixote's adventure with the wineskins.

soporific of all snacks and one of the most enjoyable. Sherry is a strong enough wine to stand up to hors d'oeuvres, even the most vinegary kind, and goes well with a variety of foods from shellfish to roast chicken. It is often the most enjoyable wine to have for lunch as well as being the cheapest.

Enough body for after meal drinking

Real amontillado sherries are developed from fino sherries, which are allowed to age in the wood. They can therefore never be cheap—but they are worth paying for. They have an aroma that is all their own and a great depth of flavour. They round off a meal and taste as aperitifs or perhaps with the soup.

Palo cortado is a rare kind of sherry—a style that stands by itself, combining some of the pleasures of amontillado and oloroso. It can be drunk in the same way as amontillado but an old wine (sometimes sold as *dos cortados* or

tres cortados) has body enough to be enjoyed after a meal, especially after luncheon in the summer, when too sweet a wine can send you to sleep.

Although most of the oloroso sherries sold in the country (together with many of the amontillados and palo cortados) are sweetened, it is now possible to buy dry olorosos and they are well worth looking for.

There is considerably body in this wine and it is excellent as an aperitif, especially on a cold day, or drunk by itself, for instance at 11 am. The sweeter olorosos (including the best of the cream sherries) are really too sweet to be enjoyed as aperitifs; they cloy the appetite rather than stimulate it. But they are delicious dessert wines, either taken by themselves after a meal, or with fruit, dessert, or even a pudding. They round off a meal and give it a special completeness.

Manzanilla and fino do not keep in the bottle. They coarsen and lose some of their freshness. It is best to buy them from a source with a quick turnover and to drink them right away. Do not keep them for more than three months.

The other kinds of sherry keep for years in the bottle without deterioration and if they are sweet in the first place they somehow consume their sugar, becoming steadily drier and acquiring a special aroma known to all lovers of old bottled sherry; but for them to do this they should be of top quality to begin with and should be kept for at least 10 years.

It is worth laying down such wines. Once opened, sherry like other wines tends to oxidize. Certainly after two or three days the difference in a dry sherry is easily perceptible, though a sweet sherry, having less delicacy to begin with, can easily last a week or two. Dry sherries oxidize less rapidly if they are tightly corked immediately after being poured, then kept in a cool place, such as the door of a refrigerator. And if there is real doubt the answer is to have a spare empty half-bottle and to decant half of the bottle into it immediately on opening, then cork it tightly. In that way it lasts as long as if it had never been opened.

Sherries in Britain: next page

Julian Jeffs is the author of *Sherry*, published in 1977.

## SPANISH WINES WITH DENOMINATION OF ORIGIN

land of contrasts, produces a wide mosaic of wines of different characteristics due to the diversity of climates and the range of today's vine varieties and the distinct local traditions of each region.

Spanish wines, only those coming from certain grapes, with well-defined characteristics of quality, personality and origin deserve the honour of a denomination of origin. Each denomination of origin is directed and controlled by a Regulation Board and all the Regulation Boards are attached to the National Institute of Denomination of Origin.

one of the following elements is controlled with the care to arrive at those products with the right to Denomination of Origin.

- Production area
- Soil quality
- Grape variety
- Pruning system
- Seeding method
- Grape yield per ha.

PEZ-XERES-SHERRY  
MANZANILLA  
VALCAR DE BARRAMEDA  
LAGA  
MONTILLA MORILES  
DOÑA  
BRAGONA  
TORATO  
ELLA  
LENCIA  
IEL REQUENA  
ICANTE  
BEIRO  
LDEORRAS  
RINENA  
NEDES  
ONDADO DE HUELVA  
MILLA  
VARRA  
MANSA  
MANCHA  
ENTRIDA  
ALDEPENAS  
ECLA  
MURDAN-COSTA BRAVA



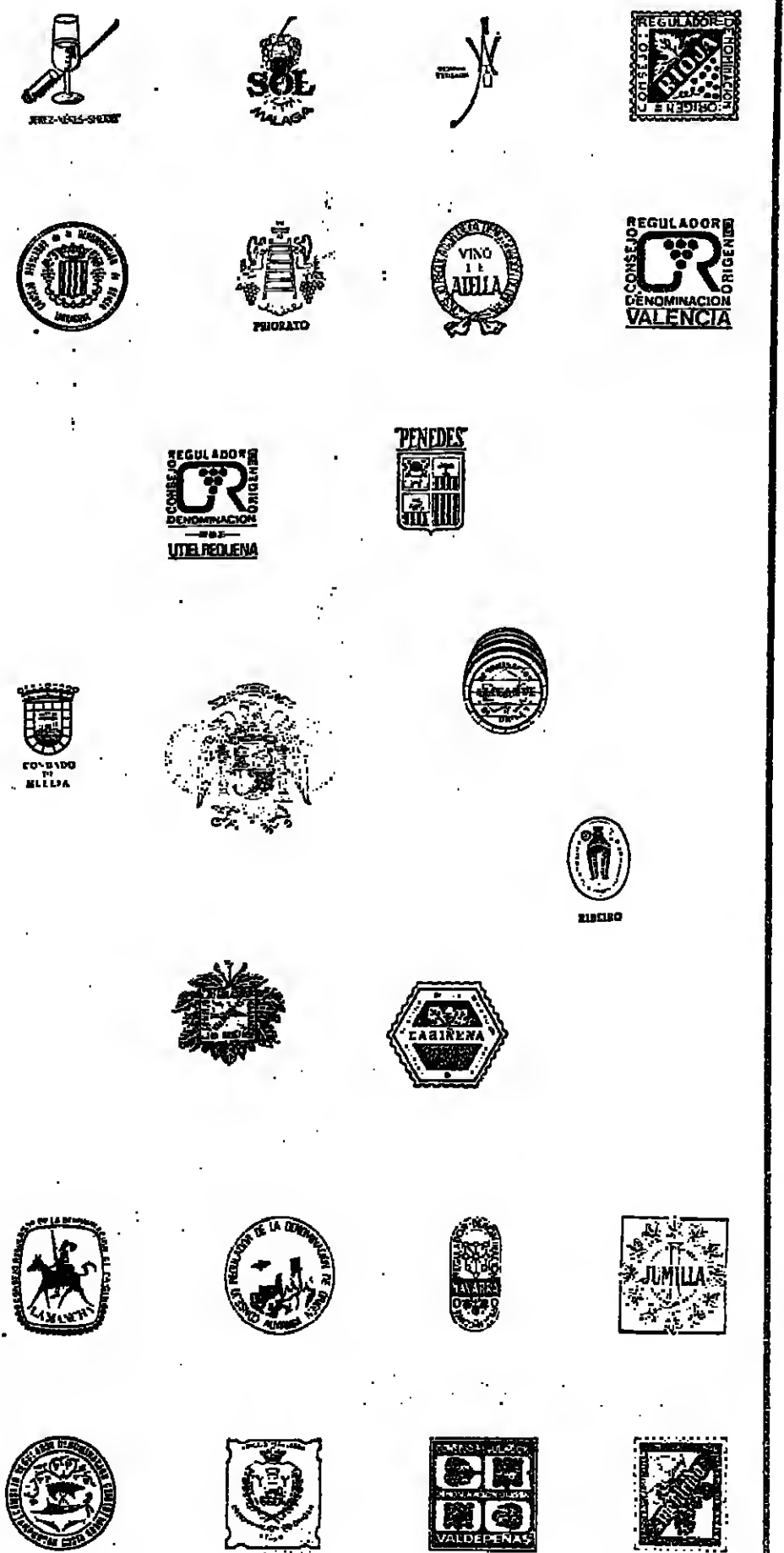
At the same time this control constitutes a guarantee for the consumer.



Before receiving the protection of the Denomination of Origin, the wines should reveal:

- inherent quality regarded as exceptional
- market appeal above average
- unique originality
- clear delineation of the growing area
- a name taken from the geographical region which calls to mind the product rather than the region.

All this, representing a pure and authentic natural treasure, calls for State protection





## 'Champaña' — the sparkler which could soon lose its fizz

by Pamela Vandyke Price

Much sparkling wine is produced in Spain and much is exported, mainly to Spanish-speaking South American countries. In Catalonia, which straddles the Spanish-French frontier on the Mediterranean side, it is more usual to see a split of sparkling wine being drunk in a bar than a copita of sherry. This is partly because of the indi-

viduality of the Catalans and their justified pride in their region's wines, but it is also a convenience, because few bars seem to serve table wine by the glass or even by the bottle—and most stock quarters of *champaña*.

The use of this term, quite lagitimate in Spain, will have to be abandoned if Spain becomes a member of the EEC. Although sparkling wines are produced both by pumping to carbon dioxide

(recently technical advances have resulted in improvements to these) and by the "sealed vat" or Charmat method, the champagne process is followed for most *espumosos* exported, and certainly for all the best. As the champagne method ruthlessly shows up any defects in the wine to which it is applied, this indicates how good the Catalan wines are: the altitude of the vineyards of the Penedès region near Barcelona, some of which are 2,000 ft above sea level, and the light, chalky soil with

some patches of sand are conducive to the production of fresh, fine wines. This northern area produces nearly 90 per cent of the Spanish sparkling wines, white grapes predominating, especially the Xarello, Macabeo and Parellada.

The development of the sparkling-wine business has been remarkable. It was only in 1872 that the first establishment making *espumoso* according to the champagne process was begun by the head of Codorní (a family wine company since the six-

teenth century). A model of the gigantic Codorní premises at San Sadurn de Noya, the centre of the sparkling-wine business, is in the wine museum at Villafranca del Penedès, but the building has been so extended that this is already out of date.

Freixere's latest extension, which was an incomplete building with the beginnings of a cellar in the spring of 1977, was working throughout several underground storeys by the vintage that year. The excav-

ations alone make any visit to this way from ordinary wineries impressive, and many companies have planned tours. The establishment of the Marques de Monistrol, at Monistrol de Noya near, by a vineyard, is particularly attractive, and the most advanced scientific equipment, joined by huge wooden casks piled up in the vaulted cellars, and the high-in-mould-encrusted bottles, shaking of the taking several thousand and, outside, gardens and fountains. There are even one disgoring and recorking—

special metal frames, bold-

ing dozens of bottles at a time, which can be rotated on a faceted base, achieving the shake add turn of the traditional *remueve* in a grand scale.

Although the various stocks of Spanish wines in Britain may carry only a few years, but a little ago develop the characteristic better wines, both regards bouquet and of flavour. Otherwise, of these hours the indur-

companies also make a rosado *espumoso*, limited the skins of black wine usually available. These are also one of the wines bearing vintage label have not found them vary much from year to year, but a little ago develop the characteristic better wines, both regards bouquet and of flavour. Otherwise, of these hours the indur-

The author is Wine Correspondent, The Times.

### Sherries in Britain

	Brand	Shipper	Price	Source
Manzanilla	Manzanilla	Harveys	£1.75	Harveys, Bristol and London.
	La Lidia	Garvey	£1.91	Adnams, Southwold, Suffolk.
	Manzanilla	Soto	£1.95	Winea of Spain, 10-18 Victoria St, Liverpool.
	Solear	Barbadillo	£2.43	Hicks & Don, Coulston, Westbury, Wiltshire.
Fina	Manzanilla	Perez Marin	£2.78	Tanners, Wyle Cwp, Shrewsbury.
	Tio Maleo	Palomino & Vergara	£1.59	A. H. Rackham (any branch).
	Luncheon Dry	Harveys	£1.84	Harveys, Bristol and London.
	Brialot Fino	Harveys	£1.88	Harveys, Bristol and London.
	Fino	Soto	£1.95	Winea of Spain, 10-18 Victoria St, Liverpool.
	Apliv	Sandeman	£2.11	Hedgas & Butler, Regent St, London, W1.
	Tio Pepe	Gonzalez Byasa	£2.20	Generally available.
	Inocente	Wilson & Valdespino	£2.25	André Simon Winaa, 14 Davies St, London W1.
	La Ina	Domacq	£2.25	Widely available.
	San Patricio	Garvey	£2.45	Las Amia du Vin, 51 Chiltern St, London W1.
Amontillado	Tres Palmas	De La Riva	£2.49	Christophar & Co, 4 Ormond Yard, London SW1.
	Fina Old Amontillado	Harveys	£1.83	Harveys, Bristol and London.
	Tio Diago	Wilson & Valdespino	£2.25	André Simon Winaa, 14 Davies St, London W1.
	Tin Guillermo	Garvey	£2.55	Laymont & Shaw, Falmouth, Cornwall.
	Amontillado	Avery	£2.71	Avery & Co, Parla St, Bristol.
Palo Cortado	Palo Cortado	Cuvillo	£2.89	Laymont & Shaw, Falmouth, Cornwall.
	Da Luxe Sherry	Harveys	£1.88	Harveys, Bristol and London.
	Dos Cortados	Sandeman	£2.58	Hedgas & Butler, Regent St, London W1.
Dry Oloroso	Williams & Humbart		£3.14	Christophar & Co, 4 Ormond Yard, London SW1.
	Dry Oloroso	Lustau	£1.72	J. D. Tidby & Sons, The Arches, Abingdon St, London SE1.
Sweet Oloroso	Old River	Domacq	£2.25	Greens, 34 Royal Exchange London EC3.
	Bristol Supreme	Avery & Co	£2.25	Avery & Co, Parla St, Bristol.
Cream Sherry	Anniversary Solera 1879	El Vino's	£3.30	El Vino's, 47 Fleet St, London EC4.
	Armada Cream	Sandeman	£2.20	Hedgas & Butler, Regent St, London W1.

by Colin Price Beech

Many a wine-lover must have wondered what it would be like to taste an old claret. A rich man may even have enjoyed the rare privilege of doing so.

But for a taste close to that of a really old wine he should try a Rioja Reserva. The cost is substantially lower and it is more readily obtainable.

After sherry, which is in any case fortified, Rioja must unquestionably be Spain's best-known wine and, despite the fact that the three major zones of production lie almost a hundred miles south of the Pyrenees, roughly a third of the way between Atlantic Bilbao and Mediter-

anean Barcelona, there are still a number of similarities between contemporary practices in the bodegas of Haro and Logrono and what may have happened in the *chais* and cellars of many a Bordeaux negociant in the 1860s.

Indeed after the phylloxera louse scoured and savaged the best vineyards in the Médoc towards the end of the nineteenth century a number of French wine-growers moved south to relocate themselves in and about the valley of the Ebro river and the Rio Oja.

Being good Frenchmen they soon settled down in a region where they could feel at home with the vine and so began producing wines that

were in no way classifiable as Bordeaux and burgundies—this they could never do since the location, the soil, the grapes and the climate were all different—but wines which were nevertheless recognizably similar in finish and style. Traditions die hard, particularly in Spain and even today the similarities of this earlier French coexistence are something rather more than just another item of local history.

Now that practically all classic French wines have priced themselves beyond the range of the British palate this close similarity is something that British wine-lovers can be grateful for.

Casks nearly as important as the grapes

Wood in general, and oak casks in particular, play almost as important a part in the making of a typical Rioja as do the grapes from which the unfermented juice has been crushed. Almost all Rioja wines, both red and white, are kept in wood, often in 225 litre casks for at least two to three years in the case of the lesser wines and for a minimum of five or six for those that are judged to be of reserve quality. This process of aging which, more than any to be



Haro, the centre of the famous Rioja wine region, north of Madrid.

thing else, is responsible for making Riojas what they are, is known as *crianza*.

All Rioja wines are blended in the bodegas and with certain rare exceptions the date of the vintage or cosecho, as it is called in Spain, should not be taken too literally. It is instead better to regard it rather more as a guideline than a definite affirmation of age and this it must be admitted can sometimes lead to a degree of confusion. However, moves are now afoot to bring this time-honoured practice under somewhat firmer control and there is a good chance that most of the leading producers/exporters' post-1970 vintage labels will be what

Red Rioja wines are now made up from three to four main grape varieties, all of which are grown in a free-standing and somewhat bushy form. The robust and early harvested Tempranillo is indigenous to Spain and is beginning to attract interest in many other parts of the world. It is the predominant strain and flourishes particularly well in the Rioja Alta. It is often responsible for up to 75 per cent of the initial blend. Garnacha is rather more international, it is known in France as the Grenache and has a fairly high alcohol content; the Graciano lends freshness and flavour to the wine and Mazuelo is usually included for its acidity.

White grapes are mostly produced in the largest of

the production zones, in the drier and more equable climate of Rioja Baja. As recent tastings have shown contrary to popular belief Rioja can often produce some surprisingly good 'dry' white wines, that are certainly more than just acorn juice, and the grapes that are responsible here include the almost ubiquitous Magdaleniano. Malvasia which can also be encountered in Southern France, Italy, Portugal and Greece and the slightly higher strength and high-yielding Viura.

Few Rioja bodegas—with the exception of among others, the deservedly well-known Marquis de Riscal, the smaller but even more

praiseworthy Bodegas M. a small family-run, produce exporter in Haro in the Rioja Alta, who while retaining such high standards as refining of their red wines with egg white, own their own coopers and Bodegas Bilbainas of even own the small part of any vineyard. Instead the pattern is the producers to buy grapes at guaranteed prices from farmers throughout three zones.

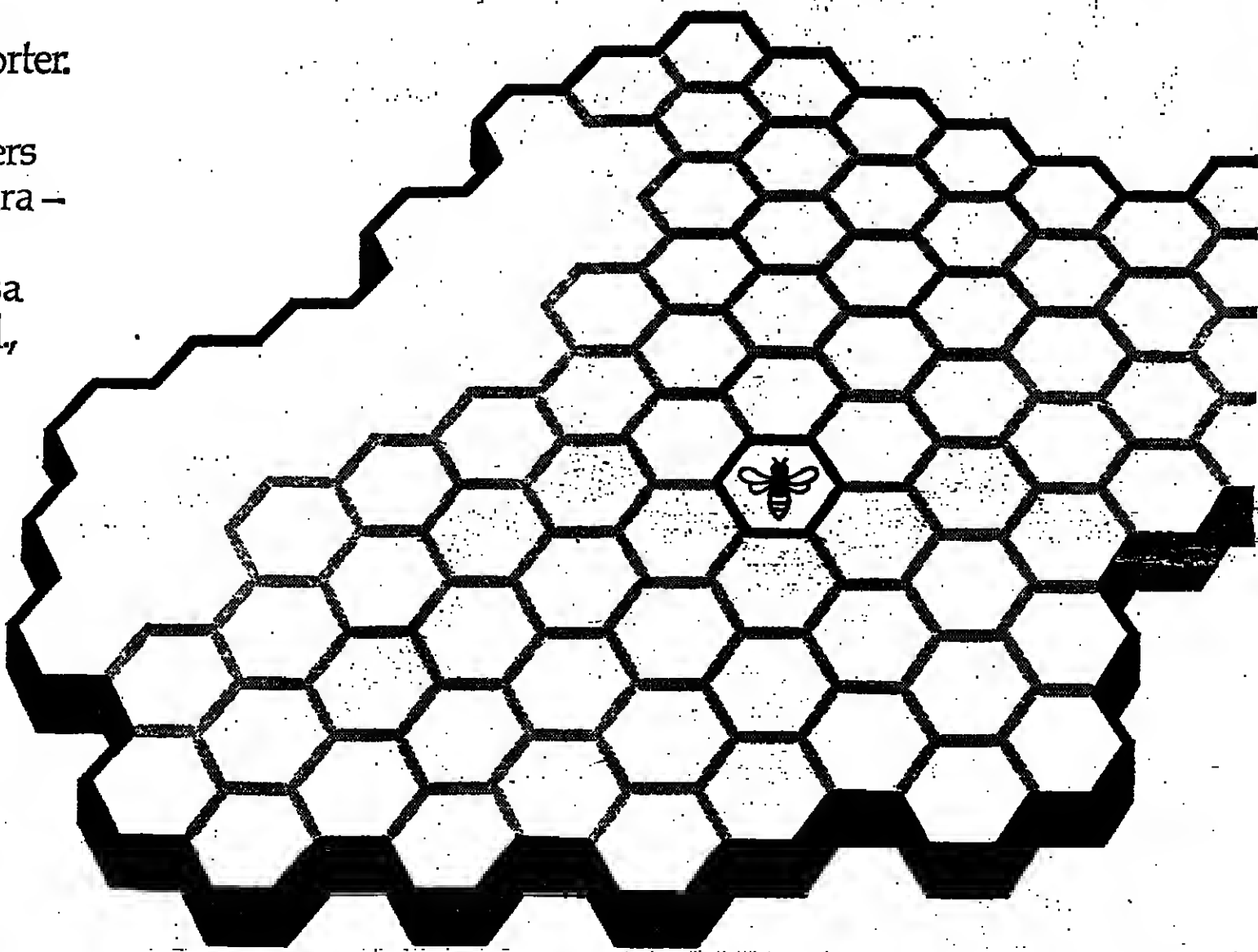
Many Riojas are now available throughout Britain, only in London but in provinces as well. Pauler mantioo can be made those of the Bodegas A which can be obtained mail order from the Sbei Wine Company at 1 Ch Street, Shersdon, Malbory, Wiltshire, and from Bodegas Riojanas Bodegas Bilbainas which also obtainable by pers shoppers or by mail order from Les Amis du Vin Chiltern Street, London, a company that has much to bring Riojas to notice of British wine-lovers.

Supermarket customers need not feel left out since an excellent exar from Bodegas Gomez Doran called Rioja Doran shipped through an assted company of Ebrm of 24/25 Scala Street, W1 and is now h distributed throughout Safeways chain. O Riojas can be obtained Arriba Kettle and Co, Phillips Place, Birmingham, B3, and David Scott The Fruit Exchange, Vici Street, Liverpool 2.

# Rumasa

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## Oysters, asparagus soup and Montilla

ackham

Saintsbury's Cellar first published as a series by his age as he in by his wryly he was well ne in dr wing the merits of sherries, and of Montilla. ver conclusion es a series of menus, with appropriate accompaniments. agos soup and oysters. sseurs today, Spain, could some of this comes from oriles region.

which begins about 30 miles south of Córdoba, and extends to about 100 miles west of Málaga. The Jerez vineyards are about 140 miles away and cover 23,000 hectares; those of Montilla cover about 20,000 hectares. Although small quantities of wines for export were made from Montilla as long ago as the eighteenth century, it is only in the past 14 years that exports have increased significantly, especially to Britain, Holland, Germany, Denmark and Belgium. Montillans are proud of their ancient tradition of viticulture, which can be traced back through old records and archaeological finds to the time of the Roman occupation. Cruz Conde, one of the older bodegas, treasures a beautiful second-century mosaic head of Bacchus.

the visitor to the bodegas are the tinajas, great clay containers shaped like Ali Baba's pots, each holding about 7,000 litres of must, and in which fermentation begins. They are similar to the ancient Roman jars, called dolium—the only other receptacle which is equally picturesque is the pottery tinaja used in the Valdepenas region for table wines. After spending about two months in these, the wines are then pumped into oak butts, and matured according to the solera system, as in Jerez. The area has one of the hottest summer climates in Spain. The soil there is chalky and is planted almost entirely with the Pedro Ximénez grape, cultivated in the Jerez region mainly for use in blending sweeter wines. Both in Jerez and

A most intriguing sight for

continued on next page

## Tarragona pumps its vintage to the sea

utcliffe

d years when dualism was the language smms were raged. Catalan ed to show individuality. y suppress the acter of a fine reds and e-sonix fre-ed an inde- it was not ple. as moved into Catalan wine- with it, mak- roring more than in the ing more sup-

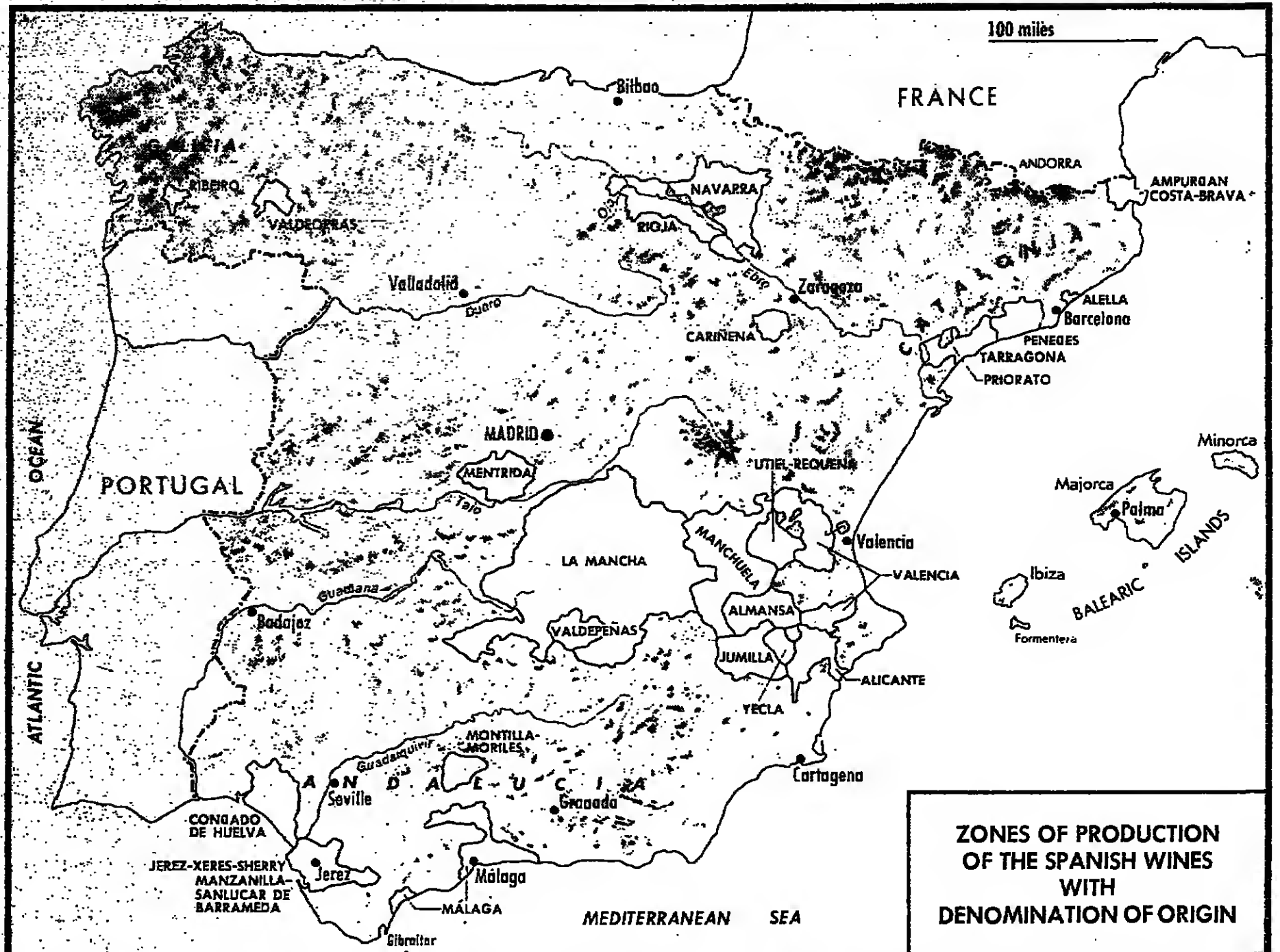
Catalan) and San Sadorní de Noya. There the rolling vine-covered hills proclaim the denominación de Peñedes, logically divided into Bajo Peñedes, Peñedes Central and Alto Peñedes. The highest areas are used for white wine production, but the two main towns are in Peñedes Central. The vineyards are generally well kept and are planted with an eye to maximum use of machinery. Parellada, Xarello and Macabeo are the white grape varieties, and Carbená, Olo de Liebre, Monastrell, Garnacha and Samso the reds. There is no irrigation, a fact which producers regret, but the climate is not one of great extremes.

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the pivotal to Cataloia, one wanders old city and narrow bars geese in the ers have been urdana denced, er will turn inland to Panadés (or Peñedes io

Classic vinification methods with much use of oak casks exist alongside temperature-controlled vats and centrifuges—the result is a happy blend of traditional and tried knowledge with modern technology to prevent and eliminate faults. Denominación rules were overhauled in 1976 and are strict. They cover yield,

The Gran Coronas Black Label 1970, largely Cabernet Sauvignon, recently came out as the top of a worldwide blind tasting of this grape variety, and the delicious, flowery Viña Esmeralda 1977 is a judicious marriage of Muscat d'Alsace and Gewurztraminer. The Viña Santa Digna 1971, with a good proportion of Pinot Noir, is a lighter wine. The Torres brand leaders



ZONES OF PRODUCTION OF THE SPANISH WINES WITH DENOMINATION OF ORIGIN

are white Viña Sol (the Gran Viña Sol has 20 per cent Chardonnay and is worth the extra money), Grao Coronas and Tres Torres (as an undying opponent of hull-fighting, I prefer this name to the synonym of Sangre de Toro). The reds all have about two years in wood, with the strong vanilla aromas that give, but the whites do not have wood-aging. Another house to look out for in Peñedes is the Marques de Monistrol, again a family firm. The offices and bodegas form a gleaming white village in the middle of the vines, with three floors of cellars descending deep and cool beneath the surface.

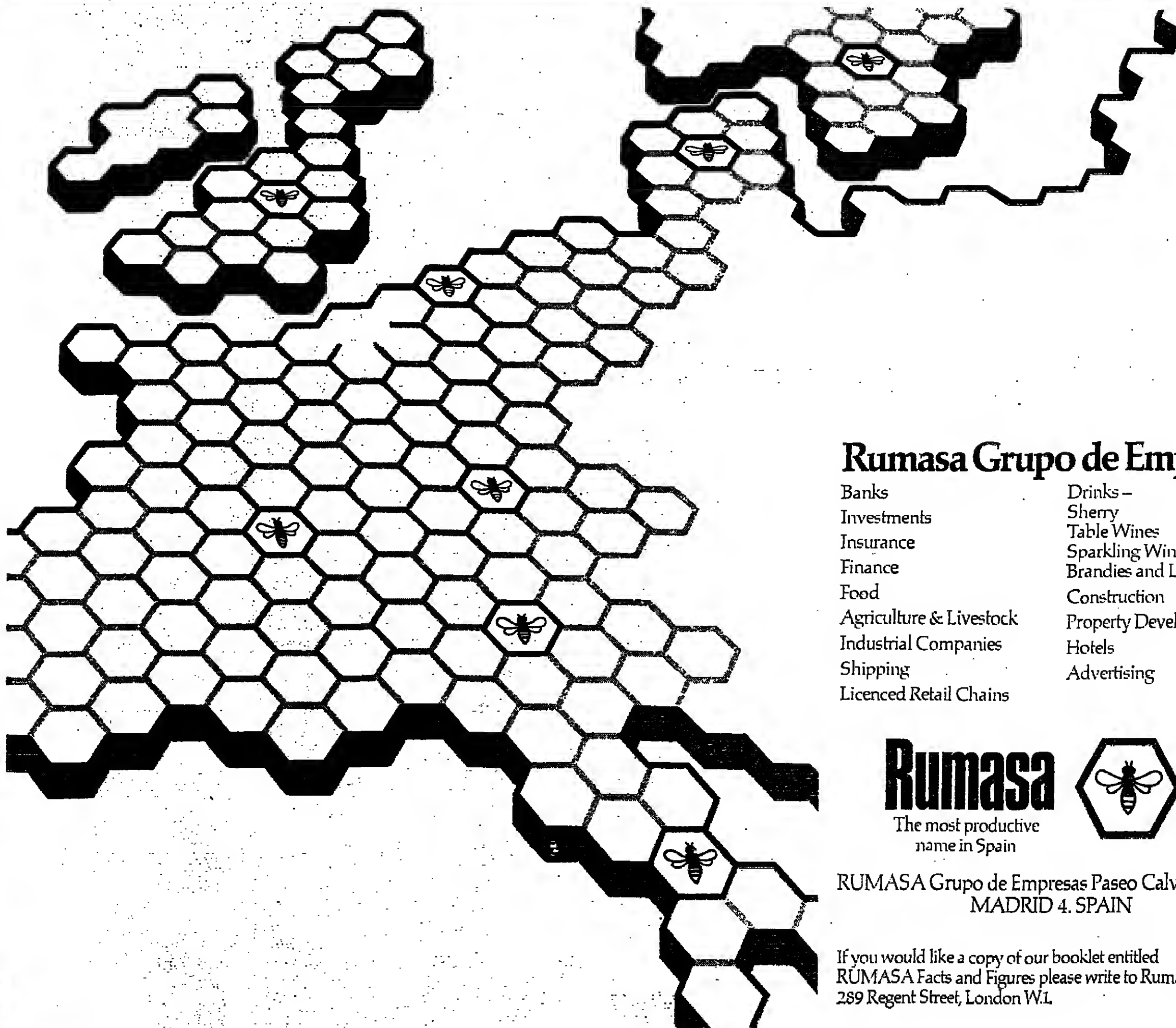
The white wines are perhaps less earthy than at Torres, and I would thoroughly recommend the Vin Nature Blanc de Blancs—rather like a Coteaux-Champenois, with the cork held in place by an agraffe (hooked clasp), the dry Blanco Reserva Especial, and the medium sweet Blanco Suave. The Tinto Reserva Especial is well made, and the "now for something completely different" wine is a Tinto Abocado—a medium sweet red that, when chilled, can go well with oily food. I have also liked Masia Bach wines, and feel that as long as Peñedes can continue to deliver such quality at between £2 and £2.50 retail,

we will all mature happily together. Priorat is a denomination within a denomination—in this case, Tarragona—rather as Chateau Grillet is to Condrieu in the northern Rhone. Only about 50,000 hectolitres of Priorat are made each year on the steep slopes, and the wines to search out are the dark, dry red wines. But the whole range of colours and tastes is covered by the denomination including the untimely Rancio seco and dulce. But much red Priorat, with its high alcohol strength, colour and body, goes into the "aging zone" of Tarragona. Much blending wine is produced in Tarragona, and

becomes brand names in the United Kingdom (Rocamar is one). Bulk exports are the order of the day there, rather than bottle sales, and pipelines run direct to the quayside to be pumped into tankers. This has to be seen in the national context—in 1977 only 15 per cent of the five million hectolitres exported from Spain were in bottle, but during 1978 this percentage will increase considerably. Many commercial sangrias so popular in the United States are bottled in Tarragona, although this taste has not travelled so well to the United Kingdom, where aficionados tend to enjoy making their own. Char treuse is made in Tarragona

as well as at Voiron near La Grande Chartreuse itself. The dessert wine of Tarragona no longer enjoys Edwardian-style popularity, but whether it is fortified or not, it can be a treat in small glasses and some age beautifully. Alella is a small denomination just to the north of Barcelona. The best-known wines come from the co-operative and are sold under the name of Marfil (ivory). The blanco is sweet, although light-textured, but the seco is more "French" in style. The reds are well-balanced and not too heavy. Everything tends to taste good under the warm May sun at Sitges over a plate of seafood, but Catalan wine

wines have certainly passed the "fog test" and travelled across the Channel and the Atlantic. As the Catalans say in farewell: "Y ohoro fienes un amigo". I think they mean the wine as much as themselves. Some stockists of Catalan wines are: Laymont and Shaw, Falmouth, Cornwall. Wines of Spain (Liverpool), The Fruit Exchange, Victoria Street, Liverpool 2. Ley & Wheeler, Culver Street, Colchester, Essex. Whiclar Wines, Bridge, Caisterbury, Kent. David Baillie Vintners, Longbrook Street, Exeter. The author is a Master of Wine



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## Plonk, and proud of it

man as readily as you can in Valdepenas or Valencia, then you would doubtless do so.

At Henington, White Cellars, near Primrose Hill, you can top up your glasses from a cask for sound everyday drinking at well under £1 a bottle. The wine in question happens to be young Tuscan, but I imagine that custom would scarcely be less regular if it were Tarragona.

As it is, run-of-the-mill Spanish wine tends to be bought by the single bottle from multiple shops, food chains or supermarkets. Despite its popularity at parties, it is not the sort of stuff you normally order by the case. Some concession to discounts is made in the peace-saving sizes of one-and-a-half and two litres, the latter being equal in nearly three bottles.

Many blended brands are proud enough to flaunt their Spanish provenance. Those Grants of St James's Don Cortez is stoutly displayed

in Victoria Wine shops. Unwin stocks Sordo Lopez; Rawlings Voigt sells El Perron and Saccone & Speed sells Rocamar through its Arthur Cooper outlets. And Thresher branches, with Stowell of Chelsea, sell the evocative Corrida.

Augustus Barnett markets the rather obscurely named Gran Verdad, from La Mancha. (Perhaps someone has already patented the southerner Don Quixote?) Other retailers are happy enough to present their product without exotic names, but simply as "so-and-so's Spanish".

For many months my mainstay was Macfisheries' Spanish red. But that was largely because I was too lazy to shop around. Many of the big high street shopping chains have their own blend, and it is a matter of every man to his own taste. (Every woman, to be precise, since most wine is bought by the housewife at this level of operation.) You

will soon find which brand best suits your taste. They will all suit your pocket.

A third possibility is that, like M. Jourdain, you may find yourself drinking Spanish wine without your knowing it. Some of the most successful branded wines are made to a standard formula of style and flavour, on the principle that people like what they know. Paying homage to popular prejudice, such products usually affect a French (or at least an Italian) name.

And the wines that go into the blend may indeed stem from Languedoc or Lombardy. On the other hand, they may not. The ingredients may even vary from year to year, according to the economic wind, and it is the skill of the blender at the bench that ensures the consistency of taste.

For instance, Hironelle sweet white is listed in the Spanish section of *Sherry's Wine Guide*. So is Morgan Furze's Carafino red. For

their frankly Spanish range Peter Dominic chose the title La Vista.

Whatever a wine's non-deplorable EEC regulations may require, the small print should reveal the true country of origin. There seems small point, in practice, in calling a Spanish wine by any other name. Spain has overtones at least as romantic as those of latter-day France.

Bristolian lettering on pubs announces Spanish wines by the glass. It may be only Spanish wine that is robust enough to withstand the average barman's hoodlums, and is cheap enough to show an easy profit. But the intention is to persuade the public that Spanish wine is as rich and rare as any spiced from old Cadiz.

The public relations men could be right. Such today is the reputation of workaday Spanish wine compared with that of its French counterpart, a bottle identified as "produce of France" might well sell better as "Costa

Little" than as "Lot Superieur".

In this heresy I am encouraged by none of our most eminent claret-fanciers. It was Harry Waugh, I believe, who when pestered with the question "have you ever mistaken a Bordeaux for a burgundy?" came up with the reply "Not since lunch". A sign of the times, then, when this word-wise director of Chateau Latour lends the authority of his name to 10 *corriente* wines exported by a Spanish company called Exot—among them Yustero, red, white and pink from the Cooperativa Manzanarez, south-east of Madrid.

Most Spanish *ordinaires* remain unrivalled value, consistently reliable. They have intensity of flavour, an earthiness, particularly welcome in the roasts. Their impact on the palate is perhaps more strong than long; but who cares, when the whole point is how well a tumbling assist with the food.

Tio Manolo usually goes to his office at 11 am, and stays until about 3 pm, dealing with letters, attending meetings, and receiving a large number of visitors—many are impromptu callers.

"If our work people have problems, I discuss them with me—I am available at any time. On Sundays, if any of them are sick, I like to go and visit them."

Once a month—"The day I enjoy most, and it is never tiring"—Tio Manolo does a tasting of 37 wines, from the youngest to the mature cherries being sold. "Although most of our senses decline as we grow old, the sense of smell and the palate often remain intact. I believe my practice of tasting wine which goes back nearly 80 years, has helped to prolong my life."

Occasionally, he says, he finds he is not in form when tasting. "In that case, I stop, and do it all over again the next day." He gives this advice to aspiring tasters: "Cultivate your sense of smell, and do not believe that a love of drinking wine means study of wine." With characteristic modesty, he adds: "The more I think I know, the less I know."

Summing up, Tio Manolo says: "I have had a wonderful life, the luck to have good health, and I'm not ready to peg out yet." The most important things in life have been, for him: "The opposite sex, sincere friendship, religion and wine."

## Nonagenarian's recipe for longevity

sham and time, insisted, Tio Manolo, for the first *capote* of the day. "I've loved wine all my life, and eternally grateful that it saved my life too." He was gravely ill when he was ten months old, and doctors told his parents he had only a few days to live. Fortunately his mother decided to give him a spoonful of sherry, and since I appeared to relish it she repeated the dose for several weeks.

He made a complete recovery, and, as he writes in his book, "sherry has continued to be my favourite medicine". He still takes a first token spoonful of old sherry every morning, and generally several *copitas* before lunch. The first is the custom in Jerez—will be a full-bodied dry *oloroso*, Alfonso, followed by some well-chilled *fino*, Tio Pepe.

Tio Manolo's office in the nineteenth century part of the bodega is comfortable, not at all grand, with antique mahogany furniture, black and white tiled floor, bookcases and tables filled with mementoes, and a small part of his extensive, multilingual library. "My greatest sadness is that my sight has failed since an accident 10 years ago. I can no longer read, and that was one of my greatest pleasures." Tall, grey-haired, and elegant, he sits very straight-backed at his desk, overlooked by a framed scroll of his KBE—"which delights me very much"—an uncharacteristic morning,

from listeners to the local radio station, who elected him *jerezano*.

The sternest face among the family portraits there is that of his father. "He was a wonderful fellow—I thought he was a slave driver at the time. But I revere his memory now—he made a man of me," he says. Tio Manolo was one of 13 children—his mother, a Gordon, came from a Scottish family who settled near Jerez, and when we met he was wearing the *Gordoo* tie. He had six brothers and six sisters—"I am the only survivor—the only sample left, and I am also the only surviving grandchild of the firm's founder," he told me.

Tio Manolo recalled his early education at a Jesuit school a few miles away at Puerto de Santa Maria. "We were never allowed out for holidays, or even day trips, between October and June. It was like a prison. My mother used to drive from Jerez in a carriage and pair to visit me, and often leave in tears."

From the age of 11, when he went home, his father took him into the sample room, to start teaching him to taste wine—"which as children we always drank in small quantities at meal times." When he was scheduled to leave school Tio Manolo told his father he wanted to follow him into the business. "I was very upset when he refused—my older brother was already

there, and he said he did not want two of us."

So he decided he would become an engineer—"I already felt we must eventually mechanize a lot of processes in our bodegas". Today, at the age of 92, he still follows enthusiastically about the latest innovations and revolutionary design of his firm's most recently built bodegas. "I am not worried about modernization—we must move with the times—but it is very important to make wine with love and respect."

Tio Manolo's early studies were in Germany, followed by a memorable six months working as a navy on the Clyde. "I earned 3s 4d a week, and my father sent me £1 a week for my keep. It was hard going at first, Tio Manolo recalls. "I spoke English fluently, because we always had English nannies, but I could not understand my fellow workers—they spoke Gaelic."

Learning to make ends meet then, he considers, was a most important part of his training for later life.

"We worked so hard there was little time for anything else, and not much to do. My only advantage came from the cases of sherry I used to get from my family—I think sherry then made me more popular."

In the early part of the century, Tio Manolo went to South America to work on the building of railways in Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Bolivia and Chile—"Those

were pioneer days, and pretty rough going," he calls. He made a second trip to Chile in 1911, where he became director of the project to build the Logitudinal Railway of 840km, which took three years.

"Fascinating work—I enjoyed it enormously."

When he returned to Spain he continued to work on engineering projects, and did not enter the family firm until 1924. Ten years later, he was one of the most active members of the trade in setting up the Consejo Regulador, the body which controls sherry production, when the first written constitution governing this was drawn up. "I have always been most concerned that the name of our wine should be protected—in the past it was too freely used by many imitators," he comments.

He was also a principal witness in the famous "Sherry Case" in Britain in 1967. "We considered the judgement very fair," he says.

In an era when many middle-aged men complain of fatigue and long for early retirement, Tio Manolo has no desire to give up work. After a good breakfast he goes daily to Mass with his wife. "We have been married for 57 years—she is now 80, and very lively—and a very good cook. I married her after being in love with 32 other girls—from the age of seven." They have four children, 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



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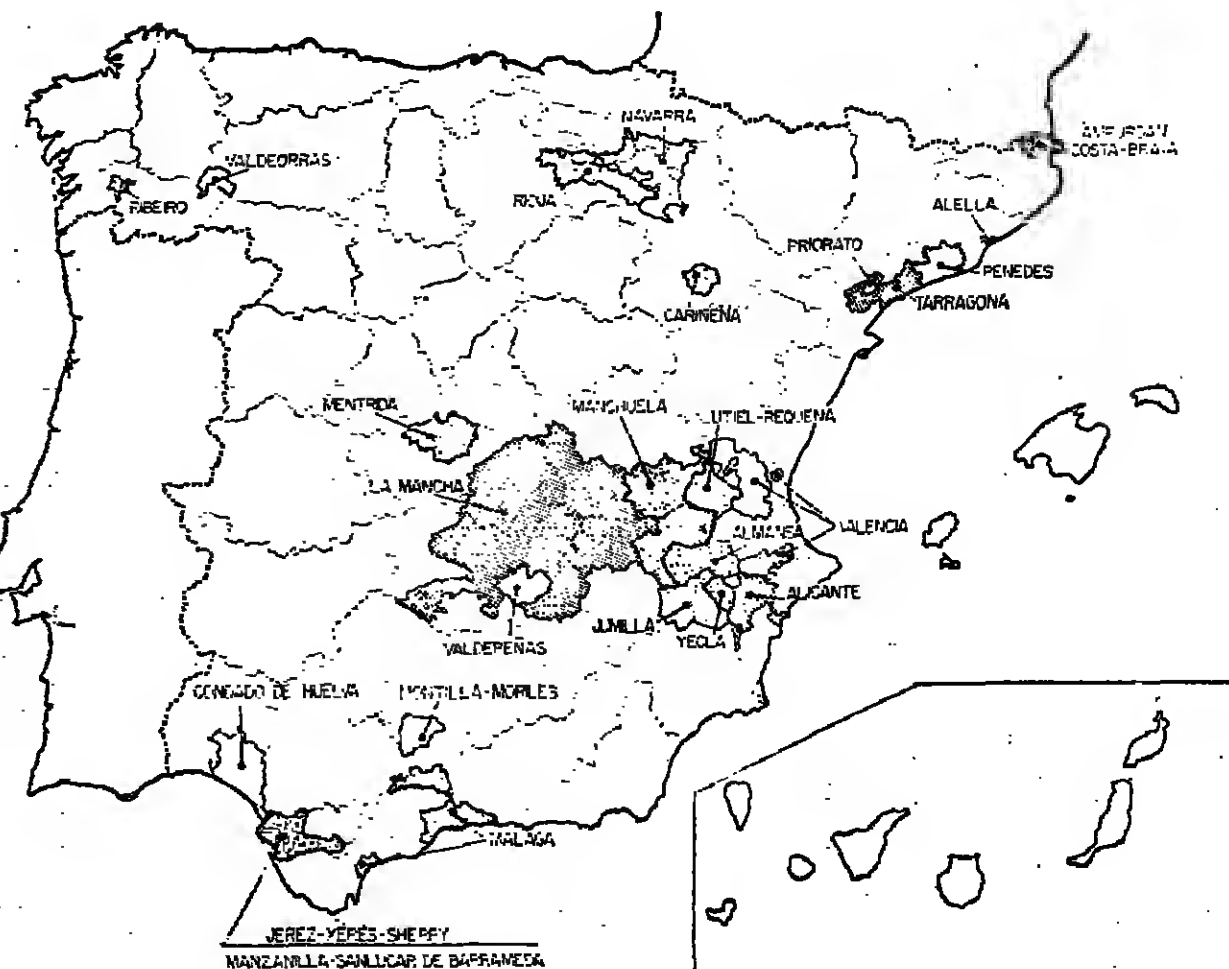


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'If Rhodesia's transitional government persists in its plan to call up Africans into the army, it will be signing its own death warrant'

## The black revolt against conscription

"If the transitional government persist with its plan to call up Africans into the army it will be signing its own death warrant. We will use those arms against the government."

The speaker was a young African student at St Ignatius College, a Jesuit-run secondary school near Salisbury which has the reputation of being one of the best black schools in Rhodesia. He was expressing what appeared to be a unanimously held view among his contemporaries at the school against the bi-racial transitional government's plans to conscript blacks aged between 18 and 25 who have completed at least three years of secondary education into the security forces.

There have been demonstrations against the government's call-up plans, which will start early next year, by black students in colleges and schools across the country. Their rejection of compulsory national service for young Africans is based on two main points: first, they are not prepared to give their loyalty and perhaps their lives for a political system which they believe does not genuinely serve African interests; and second, they say they cannot be expected to fight an organization, the Patriotic Front, which they support and which in many cases includes members of their own families.

The students of St Ignatius are among the elite of black Rhodesian youth. They are not, as one of them put it, a bunch of "communist-supported thugs. We are innocent school-

boys brought up in a capitalist system and we don't know what communism is". Yet the views he heard during a morning spent closeted in a classroom with about 60 of them, aged between 16 and 19, must have profoundly disturbing implications for the transitional government and its three internal black leaders—Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Rev Ndabingi Sithole and Chief Jeremiah Chirau.

The boys were unanimously opposed to the transitional government set up as a result of the Salisbury agreement last March. They described the black internal leaders variously as "puppets", "stooges" or "traitors", whom they regarded as having forfeited their nationalist credentials by "selling out" to Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister. What Mr Smith had succeeded in doing, said one, was to incorporate a number of "black-whites" into the society of the "whites-whites".

They were equally unanimous in supporting the Patriotic Front led by Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe—so much so that their responses often contained the familiar militant rhetoric used by the leaders of the guerrilla organization. "All we are interested in", said another, "is an unconditional hand-over of power to the sole authentic representatives of the toiling masses, the Patriotic Front, who have been given a mandate to liberate the motherland."

But despite the rhetoric, the

boys frequently and articulately expressed deeply-felt resentment about the actions (or lack of them) taken by the Transitional Government. They were not impressed by the steps taken so far to remove racial discrimination; they were angered by the Rhodesian raids into Zambia and Mozambique which resulted in the deaths of thousands of their black compatriots; and they resented the fust made when whites are killed, particularly in the recent Air Rhodesia disaster, while the deaths of black civilians invariably went ignored.

The students were also opposed to the removal of sanctions at this stage. "The lifting of sanctions would mean a further postponement of our war of liberation", said one.

At the boy's request a member of the school staff was present at our meeting. They also asked that their surnames should not be given. The following are some of their responses.

Uduru, aged 19: "The regime is destroying thousands of Zimbabweans and we are not prepared to protect such a regime. The Salisbury agreement did not include a referendum for Africans because the Africans would have categorically and emphatically rejected it. It is just an extension of the Rhodesia Front minority to the black middle class. No one has recognized the transition to the year 2000. But what has happened? Absolutely nothing. The United States did not endorse it, nor did the United

Nations. The Organization of African Unity or the 'front-line' states. Most important is that the transitional government is not recognized by the struggling masses of Zimbabweans. So we cannot fight for a regime we do not recognize. Charles, 17: The guerrillas fighting in the bush are told to come home and be part of the security forces. This is tantamount to capitulation to the forces of oppression and as such will not be accepted. How do we know the Rhodesia Front regime is not planning another of its deceptive plots in order to muzzle the people's revolution when it is about to achieve its ends?

Sixty-five per cent of the country is under martial law but martial law affects only blacks and not whites. The blacks to the bitter trust by the soldiers who can do whatever they want. There are many private armies operating in Rhodesia which are said to have government approval. People in the tribal trust lands live in perpetual fear and now this fear is creeping into the African townships. If you do not support one of the internal colonialist parties then you are likely to be intimidated by their armies. Is there any hope of free and fair elections in the face of intimidation?

Michael, 15: Sithole claimed command of the guerrilla forces and had the audacity to promise an end to the war. But what has happened? Absolutely nothing. This underlines that his claim was a complete fabrication. It also shows the interim government has not been able to comply with the March 3 agreement. Already the whole exercise is failing. And here we are being called on to give our lives to defend a cause we don't endorse.

Pangani, 19: The interim government is a fiasco and now they want us to fight for a doomed regime. I will not fight or kill my own brothers. To do so would be treason against my people. Mubanga, 18: They say discrimination has been removed. But if it has been removed there should be no need for the government to tell us it has been removed. We should see and feel the effects of its removal. How can it be said to have been removed when housing prices (in the cities) are beyond what the average African can afford? The education system is still the same. The government spends about \$43 a year on educating a black child compared with \$495 on a European child. Is that justice? Only Africans are affected by the wage freeze. Highly-paid posts are still in the hands of whites.

O'Farrell, 17: For us blacks call-up is the highest form of treachery. We want Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau to know we will never fight against the very people who have forced reforms on this country. Putting black faces into the government has not changed a thing.

Abdul, 17: In the new parliament (proposed by the transitional government) the blacks who make up 96 per cent of the

population will have 72 per cent of the seats and the whites who make up 4 per cent will get 28 per cent. No law will be passed unless 75 per cent of the members vote for it. This means that no law will be approved without endorsement from the white MPs. Therefore all our future laws will be geared to serving the interests of the whites and not us the majority.

Kingston, 19: We do not endorse capitalism and we will not fight for it. We are not going to fight for UDI. We will fight for socialism and for socialism we will fight.

Chinotupa, 17: We would like to warn the interim government that if they do not hear us now when we are speaking a language they think is theirs, then we will use the language with which they are now familiar and that is the gun.

Charles, 18: The people who were killed (during the recent Rhodesian raids into Zambia) were our own brothers who came from our own families, our own villages. The blacks of Zimbabwe will not go and fight these people, our own liberators. We are not going to help them perpetrate such massacres. These massacres, instead of demoralizing us, will give us power and strength.

Uduru, 19: Britain and the USA should have no say in how this country is going to be run after we have got our independence. All we want them to do is to give the country to us and the rest we will decide for ourselves.

Nicholas Ashford

Bernard Levin

## The writing is on the wall for Chairman Mao

"There's hope," said Hamlet, "a great man's memory may outlive his life half a year; but, by'r lady, he must build churches then." The qualification no doubt seemed sufficient at the time; but I feel it would be inadequate today, at any rate if the news from China is anything to go by.

Ever since the death of Mao Tse-tung, and the arrest of his widow as one of the "Gang of Four", it has been clear that the present Chinese leadership finds the shadow of Mao an increasingly burdensome embarrassment. The sheer futility of the charges against Madame Mao (they included an accusation that she had ordered hot mutton for her lunch) may be dismissed as unimportant; they were framed in haste and fear, and were obviously not designed to be used at a trial. But it was clear even then, and has become more and more so since, that the Gang of Four was really a Gang of Five, and that Mao himself was the leader of it. The whole drift of Chinese policy since Mao's death has been away from his teaching and towards a recognition of what has to be done in China to make the kind of progress that her vast capacity would allow; yet no such progress will be possible until the idol himself is cast down. And the latest news, certainly the most momentous to come out of China since Mao died, suggests that that very iconoclasm is now beginning.

The weird Chinese technique of using wall posters, sometimes handwritten in single copies, to fly kites for powerful interest groups, has produced an entire school of exegesis, and I am not proposing to curtail for a course. But when, in a public place in Peking, words can be read which declare that Mao "supported the Gang of Four", without any untoward

consequences for the man who put the words up, it is clear that events in China have moved further, and faster, than would have seemed conceivable only a year ago.

I am not, however, proposing today to carry out an exercise in China-watching. The events there are fraught with possibilities that defy the imagination to encompass them, and I shall watch the unfolding pattern with more than common interest. But if, as I say, the changes in China have already gone further than could have been thought of, let alone predicted, a year ago, when do you suppose would be the right comparison with a period, say, seven years ago—that is, five years before Mao's death?

For the veneration of Mao that was obligatory upon the Chinese people exceeded by a very wide margin that demanded by any semi-divine Roman Emperor or sun-descended Pharaoh, let alone mere secular monarchs. The Chinese authorities once announced, with a distinct air of pride, that seven hundred million pictures of Mao had been manufactured and distributed in China; the number of copies of his rubbishy "Thoughts" must have been (quite apart from the untold millions of translations sent or republished abroad to be swallowed whole by fools) of a similar magnitude. Mao was, if the word has any meaning, worshipped by the Chinese people; there were even sets of verses and responses, laid down for greetings between Chinese, in which the Sacred Name was intoned, and everyone in the country, from playground players to servants, was obliged to recite that his efforts were guided by the magic words of the god-king.

That, of course, was the lesson swallowed volubly by the fools

outside; I remember seeing a leaflet, distributed at the time Dr Rysanek was roughed up at the London School of Economics, the burden of which was that this "facist" (sic) should not be allowed to speak there, or indeed anywhere else, on pain of imprisonment, because the authors of the document did not wish to be thought merely negative in their political philosophy—also included, and at both the top and bottom of the page, too, the rubric "Put Mao Tse-tung thought in charge of everything".

I do not know whether *The Thoughts of Chairman Mao* are still readily available in China, or whether, if they are, they will be so much longer. I doubt it; those who live by the word will perish by the word, and the campaign to forget Mao and all he stood for can only gather momentum now. *The Thoughts* will no longer be the sacred text, but they will remain people of what Mao once was, and it cannot be long before such reminders become positively unwelcome to the rulers of China. (Besides, nobody ever actually hit a ping-pong ball harder, or swum a 100 metres more effectively, because they studied the Little Red Book.) What they will do about the 700,000,000 pictures is not easy to see; but I imagine it must be some time since any Chinese gained favour with the authorities by denouncing his neighbour for removing the sacred picture from the living-room wall.

The truth is still what Montaigne said it was: "Sit me on never so high a stool, yet sit we but upon our own tails." Mao was a man; obviously a very remarkable one, but mortal none the less, and his words and deeds were as subject to change as those of the butcher, the baker or the candlestick-maker. And wor-

ship is indigestible food for mortals; after a time the recipients need to believe that it is justified, and this causes their heirs and successors no end of problems later. Look at the embarrassment caused in the Soviet Union after the removal of Stalin from the square, when towns, streets and names had been named after him. Once he had been so gloriously glorified, it had to be hurriedly rethought; not even Stalingrad itself escaped the humiliation. (Present-day African potentates have a habit of naming natural features, from lakes to mountains, after themselves, but even if they die peacefully I will wager that the countryside around them will be renamed before they have been five years dead.)

I don't know how many Mao-tse-tung-villes there are in China; but I do know that there will be fewer very soon. Once he had held the gorgeous East in fee, say,

I had forgot myself. Am I not king? Awake, thou sluggard! majesty! thou sleepest!

Is not the King's name twenty thousand names?

Arm, arm, my name! a puny subject strikes

At thy great glory. Look not to the ground.

Ye favourites of a king: are we not high?

To which the answer can only be: not when you're dead. In all human history, no single man has commanded the zealousness of so many millions during his lifetime. And now a Peking garage-mechanic has put up a poster denouncing him. And the lesson is that the lesson will always be the same: that we should not put our trust in

anything, whether a man or a system or a god, that claims to provide answers for questions yet unasked. "Put Mao Tse-tung thought in charge of everything" proved unworkable; but that was not because Mao's ultimate fate is to become a Chinese Emperor. The fallacy in the proposal would have remained a fallacy if Mao had turned out to be immortal, because it rests on a logically impossible foundation, to wit, that the unknowable can be known, the unpredictable predicted, and the unimaginable imagined.

It is a pity that that lesson has to be learnt anew every time we are taught, that even while the truth about Stalin was penetrating into the minds of those who had spent 30 years avoiding it a similar lie about Mao was being believed by their successors. But the important thing is that the lesson will always be taught, that no man, no book, no rule, no empire, no doctrine, no technique, no nostrum, no principle, no cure, no claim, no cry will ever be able for long to maintain the falsehood that all men are the same, in the same way, for all men are different. There is only one message I would ever want to paste up as a wall-poster, and it would take considerably less space than the one in Peking that has just attracted so much notice. For in truth, those who claim immortality for themselves, their leaders or their doctrines need only one motto: *memento mori*, and that a simple one.

But yesterday the word of Caesar might have stood against the world; now lies there, And none so poor to do him reverence.

© Times Newspapers Ltd, 1978.

## This power-hungry pastor behind the 'death cult' in Guyana

Los Angeles  
The horrifying weekend blood-bath in Guyana, involving the hitherto obscure People's Temple movement and its leader, Rev Jim Jones, has once again brought to life that social aberration that seems to thrive in the most populous state in America—the California quasi-theocracy.

Only last month, two members of another group, Synanon, based in California, were accused of trying to kill a Los Angeles lawyer by slipping a deadly rattlesnake into his mailbox. The attorney, who had incurred the displeasure of some members of Synanon, survived the plot.

Now the murder of California congressman Leo Ryan, and several members of his party who had travelled to Guyana to investigate reports that Americans were being held prisoner in Jonestown, and the unbelievable mass suicides by cult members in the settlement, have put the controversial church and its methods under intense scrutiny.

A multitude of bizarre stories have emerged, spotlighting the movement, its charismatic leader and some of his questionable practices, including beatings and brutality. The most outrageous accusations came in a New West magazine article which accused the Reverend Jones of being a charlatan and phoney. The magazine claimed he ran his church like a tyrant, staged false faith-healing ceremonies, and intimidated his followers—85 per cent of whom were black—into giving him their homes and life savings. He travelled everywhere with a cadre of black bodyguards, sometimes 15 strong.

Yet until fairly recently the Reverend Jones and his burgeoning congregation was openly courted by leading politicians including the mayor of San Francisco, George Moscone, and Governor Jerry Brown. In 1976 Mrs Rosalynn Carter, the wife of the President, shared the same stage as the Reverend Jones when she came to San Francisco to open Democratic Party headquarters and he was one of the few guests invited to meet President Jimmy Carter.

Politicians in San Francisco realized he had a hard core following. Although he claimed it was 20,000, many believed membership was closer to 3,500. The Reverend Jones had demonstrated that at short notice he could effectively orchestrate the members of his congregation to protest, picket, or go out door-to-door to get votes.

Reverend Jones, now 46, has a degree in education from the University of Indiana. Although he had no formal training in the ministry, nor was he affiliated to any church—his first temple, which provided free meals for down and out, quickly grew. It was one of the few integrated churches in Indiana.

In 1961, after he had a vision according to an ex-aid, in which Indianapolis was consumed in a holocaust, he moved to the Guyanese town of Jonestown. The movement prospered after moving to San Francisco, where he preached a gospel of racial integration that would create a society without class. He was appointed chairman of the city's Housing Commission, and various politicians, includ-

ing Governor Jerry Brown, spoke from his pulpit which were crammed with up to 5,000 worshippers. But in the last year disenchanted members sect came forward to their own horror story. Politically power-hungry who had swelled his numbers to well over the expense of his—most perditioners.

New West magazine did a district attorney's gation into the church activities and it reports before publication of a many leading San Francisco politicians and personal friends of the magazine the exposure. But the Reverend Jones is a good man do work" was what the u was told by many of the influential figures.

However in the article ex-members of the cult told their own horror story. Life inside the temple they said was a mix of spartan regimentation, tactics, and public hum.

Members who incur Reverend Jones's wrath were beaten and brutally. A severely beaten in front congregation at service often went on all night said they were beaten large wooden paddles; the staff beaters were the victim of a past often ended up being unconscious.

On one occasion, 10 congregants watched, a old girl was beaten 7 times by her husband. Her offense, she said, was kissing a fellow believer, sometimes 15 strong.

In a television interview, Linda Dunn, a secretary, Reverend Jones for told the minister was miracle cancer cures a ally took up the "cancer" which he deduced in a hamster. Dunn said the cancer was chicken pox.

Another time Miss D. she said a "death cult" pretended to be a church. The Reverend Jones s to be during the serv set up slowly and wain as though duly b.

Other temple members criticized Reverend Jones as a Marxist who feared would be taken over by dictatorship. He often of moving his congreg the "promised land" country of Guyana, people of all colours an church and was a "cancer" who had been a.

When the accusation aired in San Francisco Jones resigned from tiling Commission and Central America. He de the charges by his as a "cancer" who had been a.

Some 400 members temple then followed Guyana and when Cong Ryan, the accompanier and several parents of members made their trip, there were 1,200 rehiring and working in town, the 27,000-acre colony.

A recent temple reported that among r of the colony were s disturbed and in Guyana" who had been to the custody of the Re by San Francisco prison ridies. This was no firm.

Ivor

## ISLE OF MAN DIARY

### Red carpet is ready for the Lord of Mann

Starting with a fireworks display and a dog show on January 1, and ending with a gala dinner in Douglas 12 months later, the programme of events for Millennium Year in the Isle of Man already lists three hundred separate items. Based on island historians' assessment that the Tynwald parliament was founded by the Queen Ann 975 and 980, the Manx seated on next year to celebrate one thousand years of unbroken democratic government. It is accepted that the Icelandic parliament was founded earlier, but there was a break in its continuity, leaving the Isle of Man with a so far unchallenged assertion that it has the oldest continuous parliament in the world.

The festivities, which are expected to bring in an extra 100,000 visitors on top of the average of 350,000 a year, vary from village school concerts and sheep dog trials to a rally and a round-the-island sailing race.

The climax will be reached on July 5, when the annual assembly of Tynwald, the ancient open-air site at St John's will be held, everyone hopes, in the presence of the Lord of Mann, who on the other side of the Irish Sea is styled Queen Elizabeth.

The Manx government expects a reply from Buckingham Palace next month to an invitation already sent by the Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Paul.

There is a particular desire that the Lord of Mann might arrive on board the royal yacht, which could find itself sailing in company with a full-scale reproduction of a 10-oread, square-sailed Viking war-

ship, which is due to leave Norway in June and follow the historic raiders' route via the North Sea, the Fensland Firth, the Western Isles of Scotland and the Irish mainland.

The Viking ship, modelled on the Gokstad vessel preserved in Oslo, is being built on the initiative of a member of a new and important group of Manx residents.

Mr Robin Bigland, who runs an insurance company in the tax haven heart of Arbol Street, Douglas, and whose family has strong Norwegian connections, has arranged the building of the ship near Oslo. He is sitting through a short list extracted from more than 500 applications for the 16 crew places.

Applications have come from both the island and Norway, and he and his associates are looking for some lucky, healthy young fellows, since the ship will probably be facing prevailing westerly and south-westerly winds, which will not exactly help the square-rigger.

As a concession to safety in waters frequented by super tankers and containing other critical hazards unknown in the tenth century, it will be equipped with radar and a 20 hp engine, to be used only in emergencies.

A most successful sales point has been a brochure distributed worldwide by travel agents advising people with names such as Kerrish, Kermod, and Karmeen, Christian, Clague and Clucas, Quale, Quiggin and Quillan, on how to trace their ancestors.

Among them could be descendants of Fletcher Christian of the *Bounty*, and of John Quillan, who was first lieutenant of the *Victory* and steered her into action at Trafalgar with blocks and tackle on the tiller deck after the wheel had been shot away.

Response to the leaflets has

come from some unexpected places, including at the last count 33 of the states of America. A volunteer team of amateur genealogists has been formed to help with family trees.

Unfortunately all is not peace and tranquillity within the corridors of power as Millennium Year approaches, with the continuation of the vendetta of the island parliament to want to ease itself out of more and more of its links with the United Kingdom Government.

That trend began in the 1960s with an acid dispute with the United Kingdom Postmaster General's department over the power output of Manx Radio (the first commercial station in the British Isles) and the outwearing of Caroline North, the pirate radio ship moored off Ramsey, which gave the island tourist trade valuable free publicity that could be heard on the mainland.

It has moved on through the complete separation of postal services (lettered posted in the island bearing United Kingdom stamps do not go far) to serious discussions about the setting up of a separate Customs service to levy indirect taxes.

Today at Tynwald Mr Percy Radcliffe, chairman of the finance board, will recommend a halving of what is called "the imperial contribution" the money paid back to the mainland as a share of the cost of national defence, diplomatic services abroad and other common services.

Last year the island paid about £800,000. Among other things there has been annoyance at a bill running into several million pounds for the rebuilding of the Manx landing stage at Liverpool. There is a general feeling that the island is not getting value for money.

Man's deeply depressed — he got a brilliant review in the Sunday Times... 9



The issue of birching, which died down during the summer after the European Court of Human Rights declared that the practice was "degrading", is being brought to the surface again today.

Two married women, Mrs Margaret Irving, of Peel, and Mrs Rita Garside, of Ramsey, intend to exercise their ancient rights as citizens and present a petition and prayer on the floor of Tynwald calling for change in law so that a referendum can be held on the subject.

The petition goes further and requests Tynwald to inform the United Kingdom Government that it does not wish to continue association with the Convention on Human Rights.

It could all be somewhat embarrassing because at the 1976 Manx general election all the 24 newly elected members

of the House of Keys themselves retaining birching for of violence.

After the Strasbourg hearing in January, Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, informed the governor of the island officially of the and the First Deem formed all magistrates then no cases have before the courts that that would have a birching sentence in nor has Tynwald also law.

The constitutional remains whether the Home Office can for ward to act against the convention in ri always having been the minister does not into domestic matters. The phrase in he constit United Kingdom Gov is responsible for "g government" in the Isle of

The argument is no to be resolved quick there will be internat interest if a case of crime involving a pers between 14 and 21 before the courts.

But whatever their birching, British custo excise inspectors, the postage stamps, and fluence of faeries on who forget to raise it to them on the road I Douglas eod the airp Manx men and wom unaware that there quarrel with their own Mann, and they boy much that she will c July 5.

A firm with a go Maox name, Quayles derminster, has already the carpet for her.

John Ch

## The Mental Health Foundation is breaking down the wall

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## WORKING AFTER FRANCO

Police were killed on country yesterday, by ETA, the Basque organization which has aimed responsibility for more than forty years—twenty of them by ETA. It is also the author of the assassination of last Thursday's Court judge who presided over one of the Order Courts under the regime. The Francoist took part in a rally in Sunday, marking the anniversary of the dictatorship, would like to see so, too, presumably, army officers whose ad by the Prime Minister and by prompt government on Thursday night. It is of both right and tensifying their campaign the approach of the on Spain's new constitution, to be member 6. The Basque are opposed to a constitution which reaffirms the pain, even though it guarantee of Basque rights. No doubt have been opposed to its provisions, unless it is provided for the Basque country. But their propaganda now Basques has been

aided by the failure of the moderate Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) to secure the exclusion of the phrase within the framework of the constitution, which is seen as an attempt to deprive the Basques of their rights of their absolute and inalienable character. As a result of this the PNV has felt obliged to advocate abstention in the referendum, and the position of the more militant parties favouring outright opposition (and in some cases openly supporting ETA's terrorist campaign) has been correspondingly strengthened. Although tens of thousands took part in an anti-terrorist demonstration called by the PNV in Bilbao last month, it is clear that the police are still far from enjoying general support from the local population in their struggle against the terrorists. Last week two terrorists were killed by police in a chase at Mondragon, near San Sebastian, and throughout the province shops closed, radio stations went off the air and factories went on strike. This situation in turn feeds the anger of the extreme right, enabling it to argue that since Franco's death terrorism has become respectable and the integration of Spain has got well under way. Such themes evidently have an appeal to some elements in the armed forces. The published details of last week's attempted coup may make

it seem a fairly absurd business, but there are plenty of signs that the Government took it very seriously. The armed forces are still essentially Franco's armed forces, and though they have so far maintained a front of respect for the King, many officers do not conceal their dislike or even contempt for the Prime Minister, Señor Suárez, and his deputy Prime Minister in charge of defence, General Gutiérrez Mellado. What, one wonders, would be their attitude to Señor Felipe González, the Socialist leader, if he were to become prime minister, as he hopes, after an election held under the new constitution? Señor González argues, in a recent interview with *La Stampa*, that his party is now the best guarantee of the unity of the Spanish state since, unlike the party now in power, it is strongly represented in both the Basque country and Catalonia. That is a good argument, but perhaps not one the armed forces would grasp very easily. What they should realize, however, is that separatist terrorism is a legacy of Franco. It existed already in his lifetime, and was a natural response to the methods he used in the Basque country. Any attempt to re-impose dictatorship on Spain now would be most unlikely to solve the Basque problem, and all too likely to plunge the whole country into another civil war.

## DEMISTIFICATION OF MAO

rd has been played the slow and devious lodging Mao from his nence in China. An in by name has been Peking wall poster, ed of being a party leads of the gang of ally in backing their of the demonstration in April, 1976, as volitional. That asion when Mr Teng was thrown over- unofficial way of seemed bound to the party journals week launched their ack on the cultural (though without ing it) when "false wrong verdicts" oned by "a certain e has been in progress beginning of last year, ask was to defuse the of Mao" lest they mique to find the of those middle and ds who climbed to ing the cultural revolu- could not be ousted erious trouble. Mao's ngs offer the oppor- What would happen if o direct one's action

according to each word of Marx", he had written. "It would be childish to think that Marx and Lenin could have ready-made answers to the problems we are meeting today." Is this not true now? As *People's Daily* asked last week of a country setting out on a new Long March, does China not now require "a great ideological emancipation"? Of course, the Chairman was right in the time, place and circumstances of which he wrote but now—it is inferred—China's need is very different. Such are the arguments offered to party cadres seeking guidance. But what of the masses on whom Mao's radiance shone? In the upper party circles, Mao's reputation began to decline with the great leap forward of 1958, spreading down through the party in the sixties. It was probably not until the cultural revolution that his national image was seriously cracked. And that not least by the absurd and at times ludicrous inflation of his personality. One way of dealing with this is by the elevation of Chou En-lai. Posters in Peking are now saluting him as the only leader to protect the Chinese people during ten years of "fascism" from 1966 to 1976. For some time now any occasion for remember-

ing Chou has been seized; by comparison even the anniversary of Mao's death has passed with minimal comment. There are other ways of more oblique exposure of Mao's faults. An article in November last year, attacking Lin Biao and the gang of four for inflating the Mao cult, complained that "they presented the history of the Chinese revolution as if only one revolutionary leader had remained, a man solitary and aloof. Lifting a leader to that height—does this increase his prestige and usefulness? On the contrary. They wanted to reduce the figure of the great leader of the proletariat to that of a solitary man who had lost contact with the masses". Thus could Mao of the seventies be mirrored. The devious technique is necessary for many reasons. Mao was no tyrant like Stalin. Among the present leaders there must be disagreement over how far the deification should go. Mao the national hero is necessary and useful so long as his legacy does not impede current priorities. So much may be agreed. But what is the firm doctrine now? Internally as well as externally China's ideological stance is likely to be flexible for some time yet.

## FRENZIED FRINGE OF RELIGION

events reported at the rs of the People's Guyana may have n the tropical jungle, movement with which isociated is a phenome- nistic of the United l especially of the West all reports are con- a disaster itself must ecended, but the at appears to have led too familiar. Religious s in which intense are stirred up by a mag- dominating preacher ong tradition in the ates. In stable commu- within the context of talist Christianity, the of this tendency were But in modern condi- restraints are often he questioning of all values and the loosen- and community ties ated an audience of often immature and sperate for certainty in allegiance on almost rable religious and gious groups have

spring up to meet these needs, most conspicuously in California, but to some extent almost everywhere that western liberal assumptions prevail. Each sect tends to be dominated by one individual and to impose strict rules of conduct. It is clear that many do valuable work in providing a stable frame of reference for those who feel themselves to be in a spiritual vacuum. They provide a source of solidarity and self-respect for poor or despised social groups. But their undue dependence on self-proclaimed wise men leaves them vulnerable to charismatic and to fanaticism which may pass out of the control of those who evoked it. In some cases, followers are induced to a kind of slavery while their leaders grow rich from their extortions. The sense of being united against an indifferent or hostile society can lead to outbreaks of childish or insane cruelty. Perhaps some such gust of terror of the outside world may have led to the murders and suicides reported in Guyana. The allegations against the People's Temple and its leader, Mr Jim Jones, are grave though not yet proved. If they are accurate,

there is cause for special concern about the ease with which he was apparently able to use his power over his followers (never a large group in political terms) to gain him political advancement. But such an astonishing catastrophe leads to wider questioning. The liberal, plural society which fosters the need for authoritarian fringe cults also denies itself the means of prohibiting them, and rightly. The established churches seeing their growth, inevitably feel that it is the mark of some failure of their faith. Religion by its nature stirs up powerful feelings: the ideas of self-sacrifice, loyalty, awe, death and welcome flight from an evil world which may have moved the fanatics in Guyana are not the exclusive property of fringe cults. But other churches cannot compete with such groups in any direct way because they cannot and must not offer what those who are vulnerable seek most immediately—the relief from the loneliness of moral and ethical dilemmas. A church must seek to support and guide without depriving its members of responsibility.

## Unity and politics

Reverend D. N. Samuel refer in your leader today (14) to the Act of Settlement being an "anachronistic" and the term "papist" after carrying a political m. But the Papacy is on omission a political insti- anxious to be thought of. What other significance tached to the presence of isadors in the courts of ad its strong desire to be ented in the Court of St

meet at first with solid resistance from our ecclesiastical authorities. After all, the lectures represent a fundamental challenge to received wisdom among our Church leaders. All the more reason therefore to record one's own endorsement, after considerable personal experience of the political side of the work of the World Council of Churches, of the deadly accuracy of most of its criticisms of current tendencies in that field of operations. But I take issue with him regarding one element in his diagnosis. The trouble is not that the churches and the World Council of Churches are too "materialistic" in their preoccupations, nor that it is a mistake for Christians to take politics too seriously. The failure lies in obscuring the gulf that exists between the supreme goodness of God and the inevitable ambiguities of all political decisions. This failure stems, I fear, either from not having lost sight of how much better God is than we are, or else from inexperience of "political" realities. Either way, the result is a misidentification of the commands of God with particular political movements and groups which, at the moment find popular favour.

Moreover, in the earnest desire to encourage the laity at large to take their religion into politics, our leaders have overlooked the fact that politics is a skilled profession, with its own disciplines and demands as specific as in any other profession. The only way to engage everyone in political issues is to simplify them inordinately. For the churches, the obvious way of doing so is to moralize each issue, emphasizing some ethical aspects often quite marginal in comparison with the complex calculations involved. One might say that the role of morality in politics is far more elusive, though no less important, than the church's presently propose. The neglected subject is theological rather than moral—how does the holy God speak to men whose duty is in direct the affairs of a fallen world—into paths of relative humanity. Your obedient servant, ALAN R. BOOTH, Carrers, Wickham Bishop, Wiltshire, November 14.

## How sanctions are applied

From Dame Molly Gibbs  
Sir, There is a saying "strain at a gnat, get swallowed by a camel", which I feel is very appropriate in view of the recent debate on the renewal of sanctions in the House of Commons. My husband and I live in an area where there is a real possibility of our home being destroyed by terrorist action. We therefore decided to relocate in our sons, the three living in England, their portion of our family silver and EPNS. All of it has a greater sentimental value than real value. We will not break sanctions, so we obtained all the necessary documents (two thousand) to export it from Rhodesia. However, Her Majesty's Customs impounded it on arrival in the United Kingdom and all representations to have it released have fallen on deaf ears. Our sons have, for the past 15 months, been paying a heavy storage charge. It appears sadly ironic to me that the Biograph report seems to show that Her Majesty's Government knowingly took a course of action that perpetuated a regime in this country that this family has, through two generations and a considerable personal cost, opposed. Yours faithfully, MOLLY GIBBS, Rhodesia.

## Pope and contraception

From Mr Antoni Postpieszalski  
Sir, I refer to the letter of Dom A. J. Snopce which appeared in the issue of November 8 linking the present Pope's book *Love and Responsibility* with the encyclical of Paul VI *Humanae Vitae*. It is to be noted that the book (which few people outside Poland seem to have read) originally appeared as early as 1960 and was probably conceived when the future Pope was still an ordinary priest (he became bishop in 1958). Indeed, so far from having been written in support of *Humanae Vitae* (1968) it differs from the encyclical at least in emphasis, on two points. On the one hand, Bishop Wojtyla (as he was at the time of publication), unlike Paul VI, says relatively little about sex, social, economic and educational factors which may at times justify a responsible limitation of the number of children. In line with the then prevailing teaching of Pope XII (*Casti Connubii*, 1930) he insists that marriage should, in principle, always be open to procreation. On the other hand, he tends also to minimize the distinction between artificial and natural means of family limitation which is the core of the controversy about *Humanae Vitae*. His attitude, thus, seems to be close to that of the majority of the Papal Commission who, in their report of 1966, also condemned what they called "the contraceptive mentality", while conceding that at times responsible parenthood may require limiting the number of children. Being a priest, also by so-called artificial means. There is, therefore, little reason to suppose that Archbishop Wojtyla, had he been present at the crucial meeting of the Commission in June, 1966, would have sided with the minority headed by Cardinal Ottaviani and voted against the majority report. Of course, this in itself says nothing about what John Paul II may or may not do about *Humanae Vitae*. Yours faithfully, ANTONI POSTPESZALSKI, 115 Reddon Road, NE, November 11.

## Status of voluntary bodies

From the Director of the National Council of Social Service  
Sir, "When does a voluntary organization become a Quango?" asks Baroness Young introducing a debate on Quangos in the House of Lords yesterday (November 15). The issue is a government to treat voluntary organizations as Quangos is detrimental to the voluntary sector as a whole. Voluntary organizations are essentially independent bodies unlike Quangos who, as their name suggests, are quasi-independent and whose members are appointed directly by a Minister. The reasons why we need a strong independent voluntary sector in this country are first that voluntary organizations and volunteers add very considerably to the money and manpower resources available within our welfare state. Secondly, many services are qualitatively better if provided by a combination of voluntary and statutory agencies. Thirdly, voluntary organizations as constructive critics and innovators are frequently the first to recognize and respond to new and changing needs. Finally, voluntary organizations and volunteering provide an opportunity for involving many thousands of people at any one time in helping themselves or the community in which they live. The NCSS is encouraged by the increased financial support provided by government to voluntary organizations in recent years. No doubt the conditions attached to grant aiding voluntary organizations can be improved, but if those conditions inhibit the independence of voluntary organizations, we are in danger of losing the invaluable contribution that the voluntary sector now makes and its considerable potential for the future. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS HINTON, Director, The National Council of Social Service, 26 Bedford Square, WCL November 16.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Have the unions lost their direction?

From Mr P. F. Kilminster  
Sir, Have the unions lost their direction as Tom Jackson believes? As the majority of unions were formed for the necessary protection of specific groups of workers, their historical ties with the Labour Government must always take second place to their more immediate, established function to obtain from their respective industries the best deal for their own members. The successive voluntarily agreed policies on wages may be to the social credit of our union leaders, but it is hardly a natural position for them to be in with regard to their primary responsibility to their members. Protective groups, whether for business or workers, share the common aim of pursuing their own interests. This is to be expected in a highly competitive free society. As a result, there will continue to be casualties. The important weaker groups of workers will tend to fall behind in a free collective bargaining situation then, after attempts are made periodically for them to "catch up" with the aid of union government "across the board" agreements, it will be the skilled man's differential that drops behind. To counter this, and accepting the need for continuing government inflation control in wage dealing, there is required an agreed national wage league table whereby the basic rates of all occupations would be standardized and a position or grouping within the table allocated on the basis of the importance of the occupation to the community. Annual basic pay rises agreed by unions and governments would act on the whole table, leaving room for local negotiations on productivity deals, bonuses, etc. Until a fair system operates to control inflation on all controllable fronts we will continue to be a divided society and, while I and

many others at my work place and elsewhere are prepared to support reasonable inflation control measures, it does not follow that automatic support will be given by union members to the Labour Government on the wages/inflation issue just because of their historical connexions. Na, Tom, the current direction being taken by our unions nor free collective bargaining is the traditional and proper one in our free society. Yours faithfully, P. F. KILMINSTER, 24 Newton Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, November 17.

From Mr J. E. Humphrey  
Sir, Mr Simon Beddoe (November 11) cannot understand why we have a commission to operate against monopolies, we permit unions to operate closed shops; and he goes on to list other such industrial wonders of the moment. There is, I suggest, one and the same explanation for all the absurdities he mentions, which is that the present government has so indulged the unions with a diet of privilege, impunity, political influence and like body-building steroids that both government and people are too scared of the resulting heavyweights to cross them, however odd the consequences. One sees no deliverance from the sort of economic and industrial nonsense of which Mr Beddoe writes, short of positive resistance to the new despotism, though whether we shall stir ourselves to that without the impetus of some desperate national crisis seems very doubtful in the light of our present (and understandable) timidity. Yours faithfully, J. E. HUMPHREY, 9 Offington Gardens, Wokingham, West Sussex, November 12.

### The Old Vic

From Mr Hugh Manning  
Sir, Roy Shaw, in his letter to *Viz* (November 9), states that Mr Martin Goring is wrong about his facts concerning the Old Vic Theatre. The one indisputable fact is that before the National Theatre Company opened at the Old Vic Theatre in 1962, the Arts Council was funding an Old Vic Theatre Company. At the time the late Lord Chandos who had been a government spokesman on these matters in the House of Lords, and who was then Chairman of the National Theatre Board, gave assurances to British Actors' Equity that when the National Company moved to the South Bank, the Old Vic would be free "to pursue its own course". How can it do this now that the subsidy previously given to the Old Vic Company has been lost and the funding given to the National Theatre? Mr Shaw does well to remind us that the Arts Council does not fund theatre building but theatre companies. Isn't it a fact, however, that approximately one-third of the expenditure at the National Theatre is incurred in the maintenance of the building, and however this cost is shown in the accounts, some of this money must be coming from the Arts Council—money which could well be spent for additional production in the National Theatre, and in restoring subsidy for a company at the Old Vic Theatre? Is the Arts Council now saying that it will not fund any company at the Old Vic Theatre and that so far as it is concerned the theatre can be left to die? If so, a new meaning has been given to the words "a theatrical scandal". The fate of the Old Vic Theatre should not be discussed in the sterile terms of "building" but in the terms of "theatre". The Old Vic Theatre is the National Company which took

over these subsidies for 13 years, but it never was or set out to be a mini-National. It was a people's theatre in its own right encouraging young and encouraging old talent, not only on the Waterloo Road but in its later years under the direction of Michael Benthall in extensive tours round the regions. The Prospect Company during its short tenure at the Old Vic has demonstrated that it is capable of maintaining this tradition both in London and in the regions. Mr Shaw has gone on record as saying that the Arts Council has not only a duty to fund a community theatre and vital pioneer work by the companies in the regions; it also has a duty to give regions access to the high arts of the classical theatre. The Prospect Company since it was originally based in Cambridge has been doing this for a long time and Mr Shaw must know as well as I that for such a company to maintain its standards and continue to attract performers of the highest quality, a permanent base is essential. It cannot exist only on tour. The Old Vic Theatre provides that base, and if the Arts Council is serious in its intention to provide the regions with theatre of this quality, it should fund the company not only on tour but also at the Old Vic Theatre. In 1976, when I was President of British Actors' Equity, I signed a letter to *The Times* which read: "If assurances are to be honoured, the money must be found. British Actors' Equity is determined to awake government and local authorities to its responsibilities. It seems that that duty is still with us. Yours faithfully, HUGH MANNING, Councillor and former President, 1975-78, British Actors' Equity Association, 8 Harley Street, W1, November 20.

### Arts sponsors

From the Warden of Goldsmiths  
Sir, Now that the debate on commercial sponsorship for the arts seems to be reaching its end, may I try to sum up the main points of disagreement? Some correspondents argue that, since commercial organisations do not have to give money to the Arts Council and the Arts Council exists precisely to do so, the Council should be content with much less acknowledgment. But the Council, in calling for roughly equal recognition, is not speaking for itself; a public body cannot presume *amur proprio*. Rather, the Council is recalling that it is the custodian of taxpayers' money, which doesn't have to be set aside for the arts but must be given to them. The money is made available year in, year out. For some of the major performing companies the taxpayers' annual contribution amounts literally to millions each, or to more than 50 per cent of their total annual expenditure. Thus, any one of their productions has a hidden subvention of about half its costs from the taxpayers—the great majority of whom, incidentally, will never be able to see, say, grand opera. As the guardian of their interests the Arts Council, though traditionally content with a small printed acknowledgment, naturally must object to the wholesale appropriation of particular performances which some commercial sponsors, themselves contributing relatively small sums, are now beginning to expect. One of your correspondents, in defending this practice, compared the very much more blatant acknowledgments to sponsors which are now common in sport. Certainly, one has come to wonder how long it will be before Carmen performs, chest heaving, in a T-shirt advertising some brand of cigarette much favoured by rising executives. The essence of the dispute is the definition of due recognition. The Arts Council believes, and has clear evidence, that latterly some acknowledgments to commercial sponsors have been excessive and do violence to that much greater, continuing

taxpayers' support. The simple fact is that some managements have thoughtlessly or nervously conceded extreme practices, and some commercial sponsors have obtained from them an unjustifiable degree of acknowledgment. The Arts Council is suggesting that both sponsors and management should think more carefully. The history of British practice in this matter has some good precedents and they are not altogether wanting today, as for example in the cards announcing the Royal Academy's current *Gold of El Dorado* exhibition. The list of promoters is decently ordered and the commercial sponsors have equal billing with the Academy. Commercial sponsors have rights to proper recognition. If, when it is pointed out that some have claimed and been given unjustifiable recognition, those firms then threaten to pick up their ball and leave the pitch, the arts will be well shot of them. Fair dispute is one thing; veiled threats another. More responsible sponsors will recognize the justice of the Arts Council's case and will give graciously, not only for the improvement of their own "public image", but for the good of the society as a whole. They will seek and should have their proper dues; no more and no less. Yours faithfully, RICHARD HOGGART, Warden, Goldsmiths College, New Cross, SE14, November 15.

### Dylan's 'friends'

From Mr Paul Ferris  
Sir, Stanley Reynolds, in his kind notice (November 11) of my television play Dylan, says I was a friend of Dylan Thomas. I wasn't. I met him once for two minutes. It doesn't really matter, except that thousands claim his friendship, and I can't. Yours faithfully, PAUL FERRIS, 5 Aneurio Way, Sketty, Swansea, November 13.

## Sick prisoners and parole

From Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann, MP for Merton, Mitcham and Morden (Labour)  
Sir, May I add to Mr O'Dell's comments (November 18)? Your editorial of November 17 contains an allegation against John Stonehouse which has never been the subject matter of a criminal charge and for which, so far as I know, there is no supporting evidence or justification. You refer to "the disappearance of £600,000 from the Bangladesh Fund (of which he was a trustee)". Inquiries which I have made reveal no grounds whatever for suggesting that any of the money gathered by hundreds of self-appointed collectors for this fund in 1971 (in the immediate aftermath of the invasion of what was then East Pakistan by West Pakistan) disappeared after it reached the trustees. The trust, the purpose of which was not charitable but to provide resources for the government in exile, was set up as a bald attempt to ensure that at least some of the large amounts, being collected reached their intended destination, and did not stick in the hands of the collectors; this attempt was only partially successful, but the fact that it does not lie with John Stonehouse or the other two, highly reputable, trustees. It would be unfortunate if this error were to confuse the public discussion about parole, and the treatment of sick prisoners, which the case of John Stonehouse has provoked. Of course he should be treated no differently from any other prisoner, but it is his case which we are in question the way in which we treat such prisoners. It will have performed a public service. You say that "the health argument would toll very strongly in favour of parole for any prisoner"; but the parole board should take into account a prisoner's health before it. Health is not a factor it even considers. The courts, when passing sentence, certainly take age and health into account, imposing shorter sentences on old or sick men. The parole board should take into account of the factors which the court would have considered. This change should be made immediately, for all prisoners. There should also be an extension of the use of the royal prerogative of mercy on medical grounds. At present this is used, on average, only three or four times a year, to release a prisoner who is seriously ill; but usually only in the cases of terminal cancer patients whose death would be a matter of weeks. It is almost with certainty, it is not used, as I believe that it should be, to release from our overcrowded prisons sick men who are likely to die early, but not necessarily immediately, and who no longer represent a threat to society. I believe that John Stonehouse comes into this category. Whatever may be decided in his case, we need to look again at the way we treat sick or dying prisoners. Yours faithfully, BRUCE DOUGLAS-MANN, House of Commons.

## Thomas More estate

From Lord Annan and others  
Sir, There is a unique opportunity for an important college of London University, namely Chelsea College, to acquire the most historic site in London, being the last remaining part of the St Thomas More estate, visited by Erasmus and known as Marjorie in Chelsea. Alternative pleas for commercial development of the site are the GLC Planning Committee, however, we sincerely hope that the history and the long term educational possibilities will not be sacrificed for purely commercial ends. The site has an 8-acre campus of rolling parkland, unique in central London, with a Renaissance garden surrounded by a double wall, which is an octagonal library by Blun, a college whose first Principal was the son of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the poet, and Stanley House, originally built for the nephew of Shakespeare's patron, the Earl of Derby in the sixteenth century. Yours faithfully, NOEL ANNAN, Vice-Chancellor, University of London, WOLFENDEN, President, Chelsea College, WOLFE, WYNNE-JONES, NICHOLAS SCOTT, DAVID INGRAM, Principal, Chelsea College, November 17.

## Compulsory seat belts

From Mr David Yates  
Sir, To anyone, such as myself working in a busy accident unit the answer to Mr Ronald Barnard's question (November 10) about the enforcement of seat belt legislation is self-evident. At some times of the day we have almost as many policemen in the department collecting evidence, as we have patients who have been catapulted through windcreens. A reduction in the latter will release the former and solve Mr Barnard's dilemma. Yours faithfully, DAVID YATES, Accident & Emergency Department, Hnpe Hospital, Eccles Old Road, Salford, Lancashire, November 14.

## An African snowball

From Mr E. H. Cooke-Yarborough  
Sir, My son writes from Kenya that on October 20 he and a friend climbed Mount Elgon (14,152 feet), on the Kenya-Uganda border. At the summit, it snowed heavily, and he was able to make a snowball. This he threw, with due ceremony, across the border from Kenya into Uganda. Yours faithfully, E. H. COOKE-YARBOROUGH, Lincoln Lodge, Lincoworth, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire.



## Social Focus

## The lobby that just grew and grew

The job of Mr David Stephen, as political adviser to Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, continues a remarkable relationship between the Runnymede Trust and the corridors of power. Mr Stephen is a former director of the trust, which is now celebrating its tenth year of work to improve Britain's always volatile race relations.

Mr Stephen's penchant for diplomacy at the Trust is now coming in useful internationally alongside the professionals of the Foreign Office. Much-travelled Mr Stephen is just back from a mission to meet leaders of the two wings of the Patriotic Front, as part of a drive to negotiate a settlement of the world's most explosive race relations issue at present—the future of Rhodesia.

He saw Zanu's leaders in Maputo, Mozambique, and Zapu's in Zambia. The

object, in the jargon of jet-set diplomacy, was "to get alongside them", so as to clarify understanding of their views. It so happens that, during Mr Stephen's time at the Trust, Mr Robert Mugabe's wife, Sally, worked there, while her husband was in one of Mr Ian Smith's prisons.

Mr Stephen has been to one trouble spot after another—talking to political parties, black and white, in Namibia and British Honduras. His recent visit to Soweto coincided with proposals that British aid should be channelled to black people in South Africa, a sort of international equivalent of urban aid in Britain, also intended to lessen the prospect of racial conflict. The Trust, among others, has long been pressing for more of it for Britain's inner cities.

The Trust grew out of a lobby which is in direct line from the great human rights campaigns of the past, especially for the abolition of slavery and votes for women. Without the lobby's work, it is doubtful if Britain would have race relations laws in their present form.

The lobby existed before the Trust's formation, working to strengthen what was seen as an ineffectual Race Relations Act passed in 1965: the first of its kind in Britain. A key figure throughout has been Mr Anthony Lester, QC. He brought back from America, where he was a graduate Fellow at Harvard Law School, a belief that human rights legislation, though an unfamiliar concept on this side of the Atlantic, could be adapted for use in newly multi-racial Britain.

In the early 1960s, he worked in the Society of Labour Lawyers to promote this type of legislation they thought was needed. Later he became special adviser to Mr Roy Jenkins, helping to draw up equal rights legislation for women, which Relations Act. While he was working with set the pattern for Britain's last Race



Mr David Stephen

Mr Jenkins, Mr Lester gave up his position on Runnymede's advisory committee. He has since returned to be a trustee.

The Trust's first director, Mr Dipak Nandy, who is to give its tenth anniversary lecture, is deputy chief executive of the Equal Opportunities Commission, the child of the legislation Mr Lester helped to shape.

Mr Stephen came from the education section of the old Community Relations Commission to be Mr Nandy's deputy at

the Trust and, when Mr Nandy left, became director. Mr Stephen's successor was Mr Tom Rees, who had been a consultant to the Central Policy Review Staff ("Think Tank") for its race relations inquiry. He is now engaged in developing a programme of research on race relations within the Home Office. He works in the research unit with a responsibility for studies on race relations, social policy, and the criminal process. Mr Rees's successor and present director,

Miss Usha Prashar, came to the Trust from the Race Relations Board. "The race relations industry", as it has been called, "is more like a repertory company, where one person in his or her time plays many parts" to adapt the words of a famous pre-war rights playwright.

Even during the Conservative administration, the Runnymede connexion was maintained. Mrs Elizabeth Scott, deputy director of the Trust, was married to Mr Nicholas Scott, MP, parliamentary private secretary to Mr Robert Carr, Home Secretary.

The Trust, and people of moderate views in different political parties, embodies the spirit of "Butskellism", taken from the names of Mr R. A. Butler and Mr Hugh Gaitskell. They represented a non-dogmatic, reforming, pragmatic middle way. Mr Roy Jenkins, for whom Mr Lester worked, contributed to the same broad stream of thought. Like Lord Boyle, a Runnymede trustee, who also belonged to it, he is now out of British politics. Yet both were brilliant ministers. The "realists" have taken over and a battle has been lost and won, though Runnymede still speaks with a consistent voice. Recently, Mr Gaitskell's daughter, Julia, has done work for it.

The change, with its incalculable political effects, was pinpointed with precision by Mr E. J. B. (Jim) Rose and Mr Nicholas Deakin in *Colour and Citizenship*, published in 1969. They then wrote: "It was the late Adlai Stevenson who first formulated the doctrine of the Liberal Hour—the moment when public men of all shades of opinion, from radical to conservative, accept the necessity of a movement in policy on a social problem. In the liberal direction. A Rubicon was finally crossed in the spring of 1968. This was when the British Government

decided, on grounds which were openly those of expediency rather than principle, that it could no longer not be responsible for certain of its citizens because of the colour of their skins."

The authors were referring to the passage of the 1968 Immigration Act, which controlled the right of entry of Asia from East Africa with British passports. "At that moment, the liberal rhetoric with which ministers clothed their policies finally ceased to convince. Credibility was opened, and through walked those who redefined their objective in terms of 'realism'. That is, say, the wholesale rejection of all ideas based solely on what are perceived as British interests."

Mr Rose and Dr Deakin, who among the Trust's founders, were in a sense not wholly right. Mr Robert Carr later acted as a Conservative Home Secretary, to allow in Asian refugees in Uganda. But neither he nor Mr David Lane, the Conservative minister responsible for immigration, are any longer the Commons. Their theo leader, Heath is at odds with the direction present leadership has taken. Mr Callaghan, Home Secretary in 1968, is now Prime Minister.

No one calculates interests as shrewdly as he. But as the conflict becomes more bloody in Africa, Britain's interests are at stake, it may go to have people associated with Foreign Office who have served apprenticeship in race relations, however much Dr Owen may be attacked for idealism and however murderous are so of the men with whom realism demands that Britain should at present deal.

Peter Eva  
Home Affairs Correspondent

## How universities could put new life into British industry

Earlier this year Sir Rex Richards of Oxford University became the first vice-chancellor of a British university to join the board of a major public company. The significance of Sir Rex's appointment—as a non-executive director of International Business Machines—lies in the fact that such appointments outside Britain, especially in America, are commonplace and considered a vital part of the relationships between universities and industry.

The lack of university/industry collaboration here at home was said by the Select Committee on Science and Technology to be "one of the worst and most damaging examples of British obtuseness". It results in only a small proportion of the country's university graduates taking up jobs in industry—a situation about which Mr Callaghan has voiced particular concern—and too little university research ever finding suitable applications on the production benches.

The select committee thought that the organisation of higher education and the attitudes towards both education and industry continued to be determined by the debates of our Victorian forebears. More realistically, Sir Rex Richards traces the problem back to the period of university expansion in the 1960s: "The academic life proved very attractive to students with the right qualifications; that made it very difficult for industry to recruit the top people, and that's when the trouble started."

The result of that new trend was that in the eyes of many industrialists the universities were fast becoming a fellowship of complacent academics, cocooned in their ivory towers with little concern for the real world outside. That same view still exists today and not without some justification. The universities for their part, and with equal justification, began to see industry as being interested only in short-term profits, and only in graduates with the ready skills with which to obtain those profits more efficiently.

Today's industry's poor image and low salary levels do little to attract the student looking for his first job. But salaries apart, changing the attitudes of institutions can take decades. Nor is the answer to be found simply in raising degree courses more closely to industrial practice—a move which the universities tend to see as threatening their academic integrity.

"The job of a university", Sir Rex rightly points out, "is to teach the fundamentals of a subject. We don't know enough about applications in industry, and even if we did they would be out of date by the time our students were ready to graduate."

The National Research Development Corporation's managing director, William Mackinnon, has told the Science and Technology Select Committee that the major obstacle to bringing universities and industry into closer collaboration was "just people". And that is the key. What the two sides now have to do is find the machinery to bring people together on an informal basis, because formal committees simply will not work.

The Government already provides the opportunity for one of the best means of co-operation through the Cooperative Awards in Science and Engineering, a programme under which post-graduate students divide their time between university and industry, while their academic and industrial supervisors are brought into contact identifying problems of mutual interest. Industry could and should take on more students under the scheme.

At the same time industry must be prepared to find its own ways of furthering its university relationships. Money might not be the root of all evil if it were used more liberally to sow the seeds for collaboration. It is both a legitimate and efficient means of oiling the wheels. With Oxford being forced to make cuts in its budget for the coming year—and universities elsewhere likely



Sir Rex Richards

to have to take similar action—grants will be received more gratefully than ever. But patronage has to be the path to participation. As Oxford's industrial liaison officer, Irwin Herrman, puts it: "It's no good a company handing over the money and then sitting back and waiting for something to happen."

Inviting the university's vice-chancellor to join their board of directors was part of IBM's vigorous follow-up programme to its cash grant—exchanges of seminars, exchange visits and colloquium which brought together representatives from industry, commerce, education and the public sector. And enthusiastic encouragement from the university's Irwin Herrman has clearly played its part in keeping the contacts going.

The collaboration which has resulted between researchers at IBM and the university has produced benefits for both sides. "University groups", says an Oxford nuclear physicist, Frank Harris, "can do their work in a vacuum and find themselves solving the wrong problems. Our work with IBM is helping to keep us on the right track." And for IBM it has meant solving a particular engineering design problem more quickly than would otherwise have been possible.

Mutual advantages have been gained in other areas too, but they have not all been the kind of tangible advantages that would constitute the returns most industrialists would expect from their investments. By doing very mature research and development, don't produce those kind of instant results, and the strength of the IBM/Oxford relationship lies in the fact that neither side went looking for them. "It's asking too much to expect every initiative to produce a winner", says the managing director of IBM, Eddie Nixon.

Initiatives for further collaboration between the universities and industry need to come from both sides. But because industry by its competitive nature is naturally secretive it finds it difficult to reveal the areas in which its research will need to go. And that in turn makes it well nigh impos-

sible for the universities to know where their research might fit in. So, without hesitatingly giving the game away, companies will need to find way of providing some close they are to benefit at all in the know-how the university will be only too keen to make available.

But that is not the only problem industry will have to answer for. Mr Nixon speaks for other chiefs of industry when he says he would like see more of his staff going to university on sabbatical. The problem is that the most able candidates do not want risk losing their place on promotion ladder. And if prepared to take the chance, often find that their managers are reluctant to release them from their duties. And that is more than doing a year's university, one IBM man said, "things might well be different."

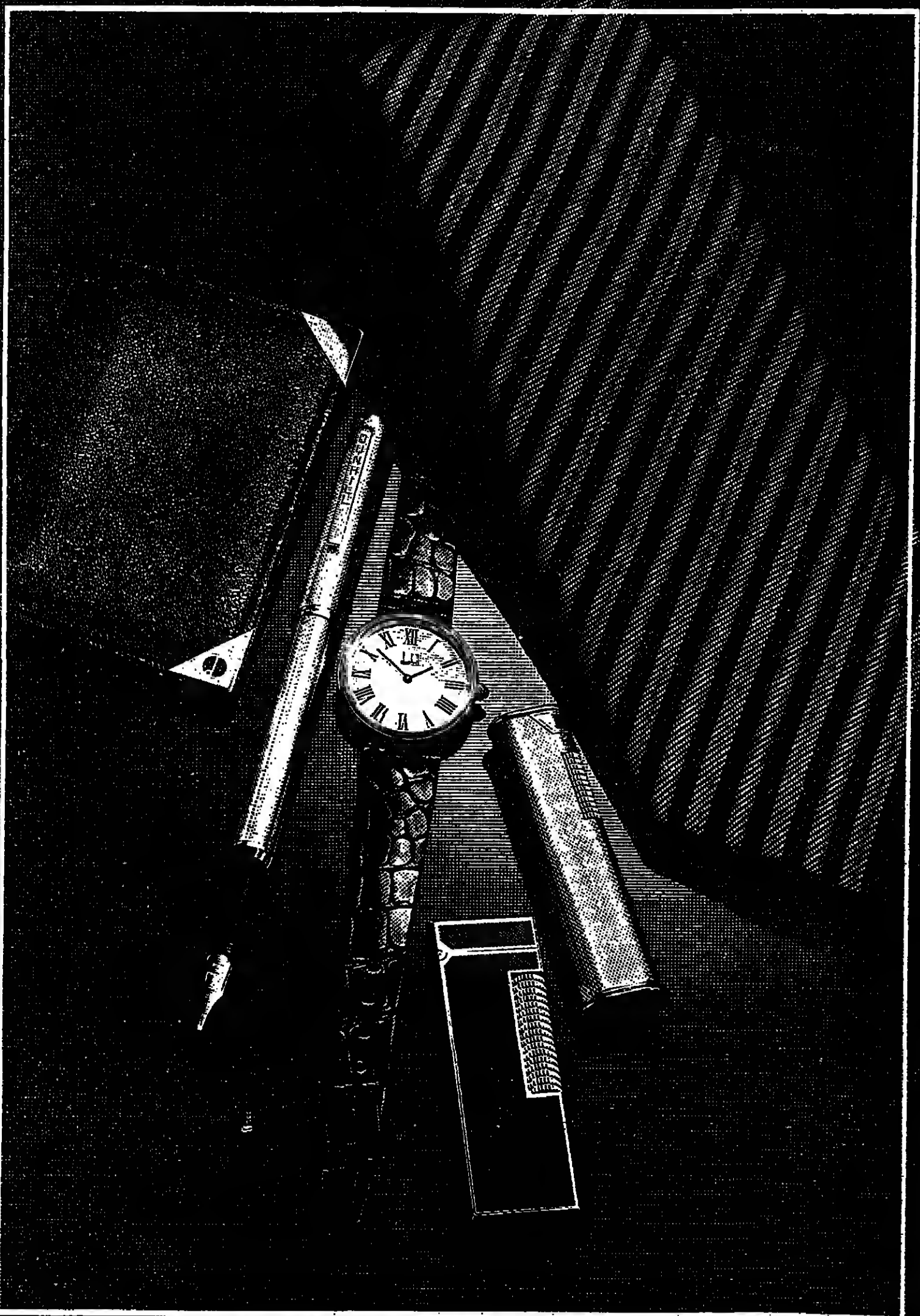
For their part, the universities could encourage the use of their premises during holiday for industrial courses and might well put themselves forward as places where industry could go looking for non-executive directors—as IBM did who could bring an important intellectual discipline into affairs of business.

And if they are to find a common ground in which cultivate their mutual interest, both sides will have to still more tolerance of other's purpose. Mr Nixon reflects the hopes of every in the industrial sector when says that one of the best things collaboration can do is to about a major shift in grade aspirations. "What I would to see", he says, "is the 10 per cent of the university output thinking naturally about coming into industry."

That might be expected rather too much. But a better working relations between the universities and industry is clearly essential if industry is to see even the chance of a much needed renaissance, and if Britain's demagogues are to play their part making it happen.

Robin Lawrance

dunhill LONDON



Alfred Dunhill Ltd, 30 Duke Street, St. James's, London







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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Managers of  
Commercial Property  
Knight Frank & Rutley

### Healey disappointed as S talks move further from British concept

### GEC embarks on \$100m American venture

Journalist

20

EC finance minister Healey, disappointed that the monetary talks surrounding the open market have not moved further from the British concept, said today.

Mr Healey, the Chancellor, said that the talks had not moved further from the British concept, which is based on a long and steady monetary policy.

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Mr Healey, the Chancellor, and other officials in a meeting.

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By Christopher Wilkins

General Electric Company last night revealed the first fruits of its drive to open up in the United States market with a \$100m (£52m) agreed bid for a Chicago-based office equipment concern.

The cash offer, worth \$16.50 a share, seems certain to go through since it has the approval of members of the Dick family and beneficial trusts together holding more than 50 per cent of the common and preferred stock.

It is, however, subject to definitive approval by the board, the shareholders and the regulatory authorities and is conditional upon completion by April 30 next year.

Dick is expected to achieve sales this year of \$350m, and to make a profit of about \$12.5m. But it is clear that GEC is more interested in the potential for developing Dick than its existing business.

The company produces a variety of equipment for use in offices. It has recently been developing a new range of electronic products, such as word processors, but many of its goods are conventional electronic products.

mechanical products—including, for example, duplicators and copiers. So far as GEC is concerned, it is its marketing strength. Sir Robert Telford, a director of GEC, said last night that the company had 68 branches in the United States and a further 30 to 60 in other countries.

Sir Robert said that while GEC had interests in a wide range of office equipment and information systems based on electronic technology, had no marketing back-up in this field in the United States.

From Dick's point of view, GEC will be able to supplement its existing products with a range of new equipment which might otherwise be prohibitively expensive to develop.

The deal comes less than a year after GEC appointed Mr Geoffrey Cross, former managing director of ICL, to seek out potential acquisitions in the United States.

GEC has been seeking an outlet for its growing cash mountain. In August the company reported net cash in the balance sheet of £17m.

Sir Robert said that it was unlikely the purchase of Dick would mark the end of GEC's ambitions in the United States.

Government policies for the

exploitation of North Sea oil and gas reserves received a double blow yesterday.

Esso, one of the largest multinational groups with interests in the United Kingdom continental shelf, said yesterday that it had decided against making an application for blocks on offer in the sixth round of licensing, which closed yesterday.

And Shell, which has been Esso's partner for much of its North Sea development, said it was only applying for a small number of blocks.

The decision of both groups will be seen as a reflection of the Government's toughening of licensing conditions and their intention to raise petroleum revenue tax from 45 per cent to 60 per cent in the next Finance Bill.

Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, claimed the response to the levels of oil and gas reserves and investment environment.

Shell said its decision only to apply for a small number of blocks was a result of an assessment of the blocks on offer and the "overall fiscal conditions".

The oil companies have been warning the Government that their policies were leading to a slow down in exploration. Drilling this year will be below that of both the previous two years.

A political row is fast developing. Mr Tom King, the Conservative spokesman on Energy, said yesterday that the decision of Esso and Shell to apply was a measure of the damage done by

constant government changes of policy in the North Sea.

The United Kingdom Offshore Operators' Association has said that drilling will have to rise to record levels if self-sufficiency is to be maintained in the 1990s. It has complained that most of the blocks on offer in the sixth round were not sufficiently good prospects and that the area was being damaged by increases in taxes and tougher conditions.

Oil flows: The first North Sea oil will flow into the Sullin Voe terminal in Shetland at the end of this week. Sir John Wood said yesterday that after the successful repair of its Brent pipeline system, oil from the Dunlin field started to flow through the pipeline yesterday. It should arrive at Sullin Voe on Thursday or Friday.

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ries to 'lethal' curb

Economics

Nov 20

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US 'foreign' bonds go on sale next month

From Frank Vogel

US Economics Correspondent

Washington, Nov 20

The first American Government securities denominated in foreign currencies will be offered for sale in West Germany in mid-December.

The United States Treasury plans to sell \$10,000m (£5,263m) of the securities in a series of sales over the next year.

Lloyds and Scottish bid for Cedar

By Bryan Appleyard

Cedar Holdings, one of the secondary banks rescued by the Bank of England "lifeline" last week, has received a takeover bid from Lloyds Bank and Scottish Bank.

The terms have already been accepted by the Cedar board and the four institutions which took part in the 1974 rescue operation — the Electricity Supply Industry Pension Funds, the National Coal Board Superannuation Fund, Phoenix Assurance and Unilever Superannuation Fund.

Mr Solomon noted that the central banks of Japan, Switzerland and West Germany were willing to support the dollar in the markets and, in fact, some days "their intervention is larger than ours".

Mr Solomon said that the Treasury was not in a position to raise interest rates.

Standard Life drops plan to pull out of Canada

By Richard Allen

Standard Life Assurance of Edinburgh has decided to scrap its plans for a total withdrawal from Canada.

A scheme under which the group's Canadian business, representing more than a third of its total assets, was to be transferred to an American company has been abandoned.

Under the scheme, announced last week, Standard Life was to have sold its Canadian business to an American company.

Mr Donald said that facing the prospect of further time-consuming legal processes, Standard had decided to withdraw from the market rather than to expose policyholders to an unknown period of uncertainty.

Access rate going up to annual 26pc

By Alison Mitchell

Access, the credit card operation owned jointly by three of the Big Four High Street clearing banks, is to raise the interest rates charged to its 3.5 million customers early in the new year by 1½ per cent.

By contrast, rival Barclaycard has no immediate plans to put up its charges.

The Access move is a direct result of the recent increase in interest rates. It will mean an annual interest rate of more than 26 per cent, against a bank overdraft rate of 15½ to 17½ per cent.

Barclaycard will not even consider putting up its charges until after Christmas. Mr John Quilton, Barclays general manager in charge of Barclaycard, said last night that the cost of money had been high for too long and that it was "justified" to increase now.

The banking scandal that Italy saved up

Italy's Communist Party is to raise in parliament the scandal at Italcase, the Central Institute of Savings Banks, which is alleged to have provided a channel for underground financing of the Christian Democratic and other centre-left parties in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Five communist Deputies have tabled a question calling for a Government statement on the issue. They are asking, in particular, why irregularities took so long to come to light and what problems the affair now poses for the banking system.

Their initiative follows publication in newspapers of leaks from the report by a team of Bank of Italy inspectors who investigated the management of Italcase under Signor Giuseppe Aranci, its director general until 1977.

Signor Aranci, a former Christian Democrat politician, died in September after several months in hiding to escape arrest. Count Eduardo Galletti, a former Christian Democrat, who is also a former Christian Democrat, is on bail awaiting prosecution.

Italcase is being managed temporarily by a group of Government commissioners. The inspectors' report, according to newspaper leaks, indicates that Italcase set aside considerable sums by taking between 0.25 to 4 per cent on the new bond issues which it regularly absorbed from ENEL, the National Electricity Board. This percentage was the differential between the price it agreed to pay for ENEL (not necessarily the same as the issue price set by the Bank of Italy) and the price at which it passed on the issue to individual savings banks for sale to the public.

John Earle in Rome



## Survey finds high ratio of deals on participation

By Adrienne Gleeson

Most companies which introduce some form of financial participation for employees opt for cash-based profit-sharing schemes. In companies where such profit-sharing schemes are open to most employees, the argument for participation is that employees have a right to share in the company's wealth, and that they ought to be encouraged to identify with the business and its success.

In contrast, where such profit-sharing schemes are restricted to senior or selected staff, the provision of extra incentive and reward are more common objectives.

These are some of the findings of a British Institute of Management survey\* of 622 companies, published last month. Forty per cent (246) of the companies have profit-sharing schemes; 6 per cent have share ownership schemes, which they started; and 54 per cent have never introduced a scheme.

Of the schemes in operation, 71 per cent are based on profit-sharing, with most companies paying a bonus out of pre-tax profits as a fixed percentage, on a sliding scale, or at the discretion of the management. Almost all of these companies consider their schemes successful because, inter alia, they make the staff profit-conscious, provide an incentive and are liked by the employees.

Other forms of participation included executive share option/ incentive schemes (normally restricted to senior management), and SAYE share option/ incentive schemes.

Of companies with no form of financial participation, one-fifth have no particular objection to it—in the remainder, the company's ownership structure was the most common reason why no such scheme had been introduced.

\*BIM Management Survey Report No 41: Employee Financial Participation, by Peter A. Reilly, L10 to BIM members: 20 to others, including postage.

## Footwear trade improving

Although footwear supplies to the shops in the first nine months of this year were still down 7 per cent in volume compared with the same period last year, there was a jump in the value figures, indicating that the British Footwear Manufacturers Federation describes as "significant trading up".

Value of supplies to the home market in August was up nearly 28 per cent compared with an 11.5 per cent average increase over the eight months to the end of August, according to statistics published by the federation yesterday.

## Tories change policy on insider deals in Companies Bill debate

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent  
Mr John Nott, the Conservative spokesman on Trade, signalled a change of party policy yesterday when he questioned the desirability of making insider dealings on the Stock Exchange a criminal offence.

Proposals to that effect prohibiting dealings in securities by any person connected with a company who had information not generally available and which would, if available, affect the price of those securities, are included in the Companies Bill, which was given its Second Reading in the Commons last night. That was also the intention of the last Conservative administration.

Mr Nott, opening for the Tories, agreed that the improper use of confidential and specific information for the purpose of private gain was an abuse of trust which involved an act of dishonesty deserving of speedy and effective punishment. But, he asked, should it be made a crime?

Parliament, he said, should be cautious about creating new crimes in response to political pressure particularly at a time when the forces of law were so fully stretched. They should be

cautious also if it was suspected that a criminal deterrent might be more rather than less difficult to enforce, and if there was insufficient consensus on how the crime should be defined.

He was sceptical about whether it would be possible to draft a criminal sanction without damaging legitimate business. The statute book was already overloaded with tax avoidance legislation which had done far more to complicate and hinder legitimate business than it had ever done to prevent tax avoidance.

Mr Nott told the Commons that although he was prejudiced against the proposal in the Bill, his party might be prepared to accept the clauses on insider dealings if a more satisfactory format words could be found.

Mr John Smith, the newly appointed Secretary of State for Trade, said that the Government believed the case for action against insider dealings was clearly established. Those dealings represented a threat to public confidence in directors and others closely associated with companies.

They were unfair to other shareholders and investors and were frequently a breach of the person's obligations to companies.

He reminded the House that these dealings were forbidden under the rules of the Stock Exchange and the City Panel on Takeovers and Mergers and those bodies agreed that criminal sanctions should be introduced.

But the Minister accepted that the distinction between reprehensible conduct and innocent activities was easier to recognize in practice than to embody in statute.

The Government, Mr Smith went on, was committed to the introduction of criminal sanctions but did not intend to make it impossible for legitimate or desirable activities to continue.

He had in mind shareholders by employees and directors in the companies for whom they worked, the more active role for institutional shareholders, the role of investment analysts or of financial journalists, in disseminating information, and evaluating companies' performance.

Earlier, Mr Smith announced his intention to set up a standing advisory committee to undertake a continuing review of company law and to provide advice on general developments and specific proposals.

## In brief

### US group fined \$300,000 for bribery

Washington, Nov 20.—Judge Barrington Parker today accepted a proposed guilty plea in the Federal District Court from Westinghouse Electric Corporation to 30 counts charging that the company failed to disclose bribes totalling about \$322,000 (about £167,000) made in Egypt.

In accepting the plea agreement and convicting Westinghouse of the charge, Judge Parker imposed the maximum \$300,000 fine.

Late last month Judge Parker had rejected a similar plea agreement and proposed a \$300,000 fine because the prosecutors were not willing to disclose the identity of the country where the bribes were paid or the identity of the recipient.—AP-Bow Jones.

### 20 pc rise in motor trades turnover

Turnover of the motor trades in the third quarter of this year was 20 per cent higher than in the same period last year, according to Department of Industry figures issued yesterday. New vehicle sales rose by 34 per cent, and used vehicle sales by 23 per cent. Other sales covering petrol and oil, accessories, spares, tyres, servicing, etc, rose by 8 per cent.

### Small businesses have low bank loan rating

The number of small firms which fail to obtain bank loans for business expansion because they cannot provide security could be as high as 40 per cent. This figure is revealed in a poll of 2,000 businesses just completed by the Forum of Private Business, a non-political association of small firms.

### CoSIRA spending figure doubles

Expenditure by the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (CoSIRA), the main agency of the Development Commission, in the current year, is expected to be more than double the £1.85m spent in 1977-78. In its triennial report, the council says that after allowing for inflation the new level of spending reflects the rapid increase in its factory construction programme and the opportunities for new jobs.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### State strategy and electronics

From Sir Robert Telford and Mr Michael Clark

Sir, The Duke of Kent's letter (November 3) is important and timely in drawing public attention to the critical shortages of qualified and trained technological manpower in the electronics industry. This is recognized within the industry as an overriding constraint.

Almost every company in the industry has large numbers of vacancies for electronic engineers, mechanical engineers, technicians, specialising in manufacture, draughtsmen, many grades of technician, skilled operatives in virtually every branch of production, and many others.

But it is generally agreed among all electronics companies who use computers as part of their business or embody them in their products, that the acute scarcity of system analysts and computer programmers is by far the most serious and

potentially most damaging personnel problem which they face. Furthermore, the need for such people is growing rapidly, both inside and outside the electronics industry.

The export of major electronic systems, in which this country excels, is ideally suited to our economic situation by virtue of high added value and low raw material and energy content, but most systems require computer programming and although it is an essential ingredient of the total package, the content is only a part of the cost of the whole task.

It is therefore a matter of real concern on the part of electronics firms successfully exporting large systems that over the last few years the National Enterprise Board has not substantially funded into an organization called Inspec, which aims to sell the extremely scarce systems analysis and computer programming effort overseas in particular to electronics companies in countries whose shortage of effort is almost as severe as ours, enabling them to compete more effectively with British counterparts serving this vital capability. We can fit into the "industrial strategy" which aims to increase the effectiveness of manufacturing industry, at home and world markets.

Yours faithfully,  
R. TELFORD, Managing Director,  
GEC-Marconi Electronics Limited,  
Marconi House,  
Chelmsford,  
Essex.

MICHAEL CLARK, Deputy Chairman and Deputy Chief Executive,  
The Plessey Company Ltd  
Millbank Tower,  
London, SW1.

### Soviet labour problems

From Dr George Blazyn

Sir, Michael Binyon (November 14) points to labour shortages as threatening the Soviet economy. In this respect he argues that Soviet economic difficulties are the opposite to those in the West. This is, however, a superficial comparison. Probing beneath the surface economic problems East and West are remarkably similar.

The basic common difficulty is how to devise a socially acceptable mechanism for making adjustments to the pattern of industrial activity. The current crisis in the low growth capitalist economies centres on the need to restructure capital so as to make it once again internationally competitive. In the East the structure of output is unsatisfactory because of its poor quality and limited assortment.

Many factors inhibit structural change in the West. A current example is the need to maintain employment in areas where traditional industries are located. In the East disincentives to innovate, the tendency to hoard labour, the reluctance

### Status of blacks in S. Africa

From Mr C. M. Lewis

Sir, Mr L. Clarke in his recent article "Propaganda reality of South Africa" (Times, November 10), being both right and wrong, touched on an important issue. It is true, as he says, that the black population is still on the books. But it is also true that anyone visiting the industrial areas of places like Germiston can see for himself that in many firms, are higher than the white population, some of the whites. In one known company, one sees computer operators and transport drivers. The A Bank of South Africa is black chairman, who controls his white manager.

The Wiehahn Commission, Riekert Commission, which have been inquiring into the conditions of life and work of blacks, are expected to publish their findings shortly. Businessmen in South Africa believe that these findings lead, for the first time, to removal of discriminatory labour laws from the statute book. South African law then accurately reflect what is increasingly becoming part of the South African reality. In this light, one can understand the interest of the three codes of conduct (the American (Sullivan), the EEC code, and the African Urban Foundation, 20 Fortismere Avenue, London N10.

### Dual standards on metrication

From Mr F. J. Friend

Sir, Would Mr Greenwood (November 14) be equally in favour of our decimal currency coexisting with the old £sd? That was a successful change because it was compulsory, unlike the long drawn out attempt to change temperature values from F to C—which gains no ground because the Met Office persists in quoting both values. Without compulsion the same, typically British, compromise of dual standards for measurements will drag on for years and we shall never be certain which values are sold in metric products and which remain in the old measures.

Yours faithfully,  
F. J. FRIEND,  
Greenwood,  
3 Silverdale Road,  
Bushey,  
Watford WD2 2LY.

## Computer chief attacks European strategy

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Correspondent  
To computing and microelectronics Europe seemed to be caught between the two alternative approaches of Japan and the United States, and was getting the worst of both. Mr Philip Hughes, chairman of Lgica, the London software consultancy, said yesterday.

He was addressing the annual conference of the Telecommunications Managers Division of the Institute of Administrative Management in Coventry.

He said: "We believe in the role of the state in directly funding advanced technology—but we are not prepared to go to the length the Japanese have to create that very close bond between state and industry in a directed sense."

On the other hand, there is absolutely no doubt that the climate for creation of new high-technology companies in the United Kingdom and in Europe in general is far, far more difficult than in the United States.

We in Europe must be prepared to back risk ventures similar to the successful new company ventures in computing and microelectronics in the United States, he said. "In this way we could get the best of both approaches."

## 14 more road material price pacts

By Our Commercial Editor

Further 14 price-fixing agreements in the supply of road making materials like chipings were added yesterday to the register of restrictive practices, bringing the total of such agreements to 55.

Another three price-fixing agreements involving supplies of blacktop road making materials were also added to the register, bringing the total so far to 132. In both sectors the Office of Fair Trading is continuing its inquiries and further agreements could be added to the register.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, is considering taking to the Restrictive Practices Court an agreement by an Oxford association of hotels and restaurants involving the recommending of a minimum price for bed and breakfast charges. The agreement is void because it was not registered within the required period. It applied to members of the association in the city of Oxford and surrounding districts.

An agreement under which the Newspaper Raw Materials Committee is involved in the setting of terms and basic prices at which United Kingdom users buy newspaper from Scandinavian suppliers was also placed on the register yesterday.



Mr Philip Hughes, Europe caught between two attitudes, rather than, as at present, the worst.

Details were given at Edinburgh University yesterday of the expanded microelectronics development which is planned there with the aid of a £316,000 grant from the Science Research Council. This will provide a new microelectronics processing unit for British universities and polytechnics.

It forms part of a £1.46m commitment by the SRC to make up-to-date processing facilities to microelectronics available for research work.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

# BUSINESS TO BUSINESS EXHIBITION

1979

## Even bigger Even better

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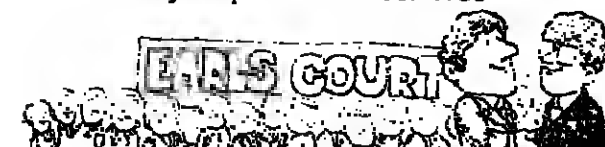
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GERMAN company is looking for British products at the non-food level. Must be experienced, reliable, and have own transport. Will be living in house. Salary £100 per week. Excellent benefits. Please apply to: Mrs. J. Smith, 123 Main St, London, W1A 1AA. Tel: 01-234 5678.

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1 Bond for £10,000  
2 Bonds for £5,000 each  
3 Bonds for £3,333 each

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### DRAWING OF BONDS

#### CHILEAN GOVERNMENT 5% ANNUITIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in carrying out the operation of the Banking Fund of 1st January, 1979, in respect of the above bonds for 5% National bonds, the following bonds have been purchased and the underwritten bonds for 5% National bonds have been sold. The bonds for 5% National bonds for 1st January, 1979, will be drawn on 1st January, 1979, at which date all interest thereon will cease.

#### 3 BONDS FOR £500 EACH

20107 20333 20312

#### 30 BONDS FOR £100 EACH

20328 20329 20330 20331 20332 20333 20334 20335 20336 20337 20338 20339 20340 20341 20342 20343 20344 20345 20346 20347 20348 20349 20350 20351 20352 20353 20354 20355 20356 20357 20358 20359 20360 20361 20362 20363 20364 20365 20366 20367 20368 20369 20370 20371 20372 20373 20374 20375 20376 20377 20378 20379 20380 20381 20382 20383 20384 20385 20386 20387 20388 20389 20390 20391 20392 20393 20394 20395 20396 20397 20398 20399 20400 20401 20402 20403 20404 20405 20406 20407 20408 20409 20410 20411 20412 20413 20414 20415 20416 20417 20418 20419 20420 20421 20422 20423 20424 20425 20426 20427 20428 20429 20430 20431 20432 20433 20434 20435 20436 20437 20438 20439 20440 20441 20442 20443 20444 20445 20446 20447 20448 20449 20450 20451 20452 20453 20454 20455 20456 20457 20458 20459 20460 20461 20462 20463 20464 20465 20466 20467 20468 20469 20470 20471 20472 20473 20474 20475 20476 20477 20478 20479 20480 20481 20482 20483 20484 20485 20486 20487 20488 20489 20490 20491 20492 20493 20494 20495 20496 20497 20498 20499 20500 20501 20502 20503 20504 20505 20506 20507 20508 20509 20510 20511 20512 20513 20514 20515 20516 20517 20518 20519 20520 20521 20522 20523 20524 20525 20526 20527 20528 20529 20530 20531 20532 20533 20534 20535 20536 20537 20538 20539 20540 20541 20542 20543 20544 20545 20546 20547 20548 20549 20550 20551 20552 20553 20554 20555 20556 20557 20558 20559 20560 20561 20562 20563 20564 20565 20566 20567 20568 20569 20570 20571 20572 20573 20574 20575 20576 20577 20578 20579 20580 20581 20582 20583 20584 20585 20586 20587 20588 20589 20590 20591 20592 20593 20594 20595 20596 20597 20598 20599 20600 20601 20602 20603 20604 20605 20606 20607 20608 20609 20610 20611 20612 20613 20614 20615 20616 20617 20618 20619 20620 20621 20622 20623 20624 20625 20626 20627 20628 20629 20630 20631 20632 20633 20634 20635 20636 20637 20638 20639 20640 20641 20642 20643 20644 20645 20646 20647 20648 20649 20650 2065



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## One fewer in the lifeboat

If it Lloyds and Scottish is rice for Cedar Holdings. The 1, including the preference than 20 times last year's ily taxed basis. Furthermore low have been due to pay ut £400,000 annually on the 'erence shares that were part ruction at the time of its 50, taking Cedar as a continu- the exit p/e ratio appears rous.

ignore the mass of special e price is slightly less than value published in the last substantially less after taking £2m which are unlikely to be ly, Cedar's ability to expand has been curtailed by the off the rescuing institutions. s are of little use in judging would be reasonable for a e second mortgage field to nt on assets, in which case easonably look for profits of imputed to £31,000 last year. re will be at least two years' ses to be used up.

plum as far as L and S is the entire into the second ss. First National Securities, trading rump of FNFC, is imitate this market with 30



man, chairman of Lloyds &amp;

business, Cedar comes second 0-15 per cent, while the rest is fragmented with a very rican presence. Although this interest lending has gone right in recent years, the fact is y tends to be loaned over about four years on average a very low proportion of bad S sees it as a major growth it has been so far unrepro- om which others have been 1 recent years. The fact that e known to be looking at FNS ist have helped concentrate

context Cedar is now out of d the institutions have been their rescue money. This can be pressure to wind up what is le operation.

### given sures

have proved remarkably r the dual blow of gold's cr- uthern Africa's looming crisis. have slipped back since gold k of \$245, on October 30, but cum-premium price has been the increase in the dollar dollar terms, however, the iteably weaker.

at Driefontein, a leading stock, sterling from 670p to 606p, the had been from \$104 to \$81. Union Corporation's star per- held steady at around yester- price of £7 3/16, while in New e a dollar to \$10.

are leading gold share prices t, as the gold price took off, despread disenchantment over shore prices followed slowly. d the real thing, not just name, d the likely trading range of \$180 herefore sufficient to support without sharp adjustments. Despite the possible selling pres- estors have in fact been baling

out of gold shares. Dealers say yields are attractive, and the faint-hearted have gone long ago. Two leading stocks, East Driefontein and Free-States Gold have been traded heavily, more because their relatively large capitalization, their popularity as portfolio shares, and a fairly large slice of the shares being held in the United States make them marketable than because they were pointing the way down for the sector.

With gold promising to stay at its current level for a while, some mines will resort to milling higher grade ore as a way of warding off costs which are still rising at about \$20 per ounce of gold mined a year.

Among the mines most able to make the changes are West Reef, East Driefontein and Randfontein. Gross cum-premium yields of 15 per cent, 13.5 per cent and 17.5 per cent respectively will probably avert a major switch out of the stocks. But if gold does not pick up again before the middle of next year, investors cannot expect the sizable dividends of the past quarter or two for much longer.

### Unit trusts

### No room for complacency

After two months in which repurchases have been running at around £30m, it might look as though the unit trust industry has cause for relief in the October figures, which show gross sales more or less in line with those for September at £41.5m, and repurchases reduced to £30.3m. Further reflection, however, suggests that any rejoicing on the industry's part would be premature. Knock off the figures for the last three extraordinary months, and average monthly repurchases for the industry have been running at just over £21m this year against average monthly gross sales of just under £48m. So these latest figures indicate that an abnormally large amount of money is still being taken out. And in contrast to the surge in repurchases in August and September—a reflection of unitholders' desire to take their profits at a time when the United Kingdom market was buoyant—these latest figures were struck for a period when the stock market was falling.

A high level of repurchases is not necessarily going to hurt, of course, providing that net sales continue healthy—and they looked a good deal better this past month, at £11.2m, than they did in September, at only £5m. But the October figure is still a long way short of the monthly average of just under £21m for the year so far. And, still more serious in its implications for the longer-term future of the industry, the number of unitholders' accounts continues to fall—just over 10,000 were eliminated last month.

When interest rates were showing signs of rising during the summer months, there seemed to be a reasonable amount of buying of the two variable rate gilt edged stocks. Yet anyone who thought they might have seen a little capital gain out of their investment, as well, of course, as some interest rate protection, has been sadly disappointed. Both stocks hit low points for the year during October and have so far managed only fairly minor recoveries.

That is not to say that the stocks have been a disaster. Quite obviously that has not been the case, at least in the sense that their capital value has been very much better maintained this year vis-à-vis fixed coupon stocks. But it still seems to be a moot point among gilt-edged brokers as to why the stocks have not performed rather better than they have. Some still argue that the stocks were ill-conceived in the first place; some that the half point differential over Treasury Bill rate is too small; some that the stocks are too complex; some that the real fault lies in the authorities' market tactics with the stocks.

Whatever one's view, however, there does at least seem to be a case for hoping that the stocks may have seen the worst by now. Certainly, hypothetical yields to redemption of over 14 per cent on the assumption of an unchanged Treasury Bill rate over the next three years, or so, may not be realistic. But prices of around 96 and 94 for the two issues could be seen as representing not unattractive capital discounts for stocks that should become sought-after reserve assets for the bank in two and two and a half years' time respectively.

## Currencies: betting on the future in Chicago

Frank Vogl

Commodity futures trading in financial instruments, as distinct from agricultural goods, is a fairly new phenomenon, but one that is changing both the commodity exchanges themselves and, more significantly, the way in which international finance is conducted.

The conservative banker or academic economist would probably shudder at the seeming irrationality of it all were he to stand in the gallery of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and watch the daily auctioning on the floor of the International Money Market (IMM).

Frantic traders scream, waive and rush around as gold, silver, and other metals are traded. The market is a place of intense activity, with prices fluctuating rapidly.

The IMM already offers futures exchanges in sterling, Canadian dollars, Mexican pesos, Dutch guilders, German marks, French and Swiss francs, 100 fine gold bullion bars, 90-day and one-year Treasury bills and United States silver coins. In the next few months it hopes to start markets for Australian dollars, Italian lire, four-year Treasury notes and Eurodollars.

The breadth and sheer volume of trade on these markets is now so great that foreign and domestic bankers, leading international bullion merchants and an array of leading institutions are now active participants, alongside the traders and individual speculators.

A futures market enables an investor to bet on where the price of a product will be sometime in the future, without having to take possession of that product, and it permits the investor to lay off or hedge risk he may have taken in other markets.

The IMM also intends to start a new futures market for a composite package of 500 United States stocks, so that, for example, a person with a large portfolio of shares can

probably guard himself against a loss in these over, say, the next six months by taking a position six months forward on the future price of the 500 stocks contract offered in Chicago.

Six years ago, when the IMM launched its currency contracts, there were few bankers who took much interest. They could not imagine that this market, designed essentially for the small speculator, could in any way influence the large and sophisticated inter-bank foreign exchange market.

The bankers were wrong. For example, each contract on the IMM in sterling is for £25,000 and in the first eight months of this year alone a total of 168,025 such contracts were written, compared with a total of 78,701 throughout 1977. The growth rate of the futures markets in financial instruments is very rapid.

### Inter-bank market

Recently a banker in New York suggested that the foreign exchange market was sometimes being directly influenced by the prices established on the IMM and that he knew of a number of banks that were now covering their positions in the inter-bank market by taking positions in currency futures in Chicago.

The arbitrage business in currencies, directly between the inter-bank market and the futures markets, via IMM members, is growing.

"I can see a much closer relationship between our market and the inter-bank market over the next five years," says Mr. Leo Melamed, a former chairman of the Mercantile Exchange and one of the original creators of the futures markets in currencies.

The IMM increases the purely speculative element in the establishment of currency prices and many of those who deal in this market are firm believers in charts and historical averages and all the other

technical strategies developed over the years in the stock markets. This situation could result in the IMM adding to the foreign exchange market trends, which from time to time tend to exaggerate a particular move to a currency's rate, and could therefore lead to still greater volatility in currency values.

So far it does not seem that central banks are particularly concerned about this, but in time it is not out of the question that some central banks may discover that it might be cheaper for them and less risky to try to peg currency rates through taking futures positions on the IMM, rather than by directly intervening in the foreign exchange market.

American government agencies are not allowed by law to deal directly in the futures markets, but, as one trader noted in Chicago the other day, "laws can be changed".

### Increasing influence

Mr. Maury Kravitz is a huge bear of a man, with a weighty gold bar hanging from a neck chain. He says: "I think I have bought and sold more gold in recent times than anyone else in the western hemisphere."

Each gold futures contract is for 100 fine ounces and in the first eight months of this year more than 1.6 million contracts were written, compared with just over 900,000 in 1977. So big has this market become that Mr. Kravitz is convinced that the prices set on the IMM are having an increasing influence on those experts in Europe who daily establish the London and Zurich gold fixing prices.

The London morning fixing still influences opening price levels in Chicago, but the London afternoon fixing is now irrelevant.

The time was when the world's gold markets were totally dominated by a fairly small number of major trading institutions, like the big three Rothschilds in London, Aron in New York, and Mocetta Metals. When the IMM's bul-

lion market started three years ago some of these professional gold dealers dominated the activity, accounting for probably 70 per cent of all business. Mr. Kravitz says the situation has now changed dramatically.

Individual speculators have become much more interested in gold and now account for possibly 20 per cent of the IMM's volume, while the share held by the professionals is now down to possibly 30 or 40 per cent. The remaining share is accounted for by market traders, moving in and out of contracts with lightning speed, taking light positions and acting as arbitrageurs for all manner of large clients.

The reduced role of the professionals means that gold price volatility will probably become greater, the general interest in gold will probably continue increasing, and, despite the wishes of the International Monetary Fund, gold's international monetary role may well rise, rather than fall, in importance.

So successful have all these markets become and so international is the IMM's clientele these days that the Chicago Mercantile Exchange has decided to take an unprecedented step for any American exchange and open offices away from its home base—one in London and one in New York. It seems quite possible that an office in the Far East might be opened before long, too.

Mr. Denis says the IMM is just starting in the field of futures markets for financial instruments and he well imagine many more types of futures markets geared to United States securities, interest rates and possibly even Eurobonds.

He says that there is even talk of a futures market based on the consumer price index, and adds: "Our responsibility is to serve the needs of the largest financial markets and we will continue to create new markets as we see an economic and investment need for them."

## Mexicans stand up to America on gas pricing

Stephen Downer



Drilling for oil near Pozo Rica in the Gulf of Mexico: estimates of potential hydrocarbon reserves have more than doubled over the past year.

Mexico City

For more than a year, Mexico and its giant, industrialized neighbour, the United States, have failed to agree on the price of a commodity that the first would dearly love to sell and the second badly needs to buy. That commodity is natural gas.

A break in the deadlock appeared closer last month when a spokesman for Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) said that the state oil monopoly had received new approaches from a six-company, Texas-led consortium and might reopen negotiations next year.

The consortium, headed by units of Tenneco, signed a letter of intent with Pemex in the summer of 1977. The agreement allowed for the six to buy up to 2,000 million cubic feet of natural gas daily at a price of \$2.50 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The deal collapsed when Washington opposed the price. Mr. James Schlesinger, the United States Secretary of Energy, said the Carter Administration would not permit Mexico to sell above the \$2.16 per 1,000 cubic feet asked for Canadian imports.

Sooner or later, Mexico would have to lower its price, Mr. Schlesinger said. Mexican officials responded by declaring that Mexico was prepared to use its gas domestically rather than give it.

The six gas companies claimed that the decision would badly affect United States gas supplies early in the next decade and Washington's stand greatly embarrassed Mexican President José López Portillo. Months earlier he had authorized work to start on an 800-mile, \$1,500-million pipeline to carry the gas from south-eastern Mexico to the United States border.

Left-wing and nationalist parties sharply criticized the project, which was scaled down after the negative reaction of the United States Government. The line is now being built and is due to be completed by next March, terminating 75 miles short of the frontier.

Although Pemex insists that

it will not lower its price, experts note that Mexico may have great difficulty finding domestic markets for its gas. They point out that Pemex's production target of 4,000 million cubic feet daily by 1982 is extremely conservative. According to Dr. Sevin Carlson, of the United States Centre for Strategic and International Studies, some Pemex engineers believe that one field alone—the Reforma in south-eastern Mexico—may be producing at least 8,000 million cubic feet a day by 1982.

Figures for Mexico's hydrocarbon riches—including oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids—are constantly on the rise.

In December, 1977, Pemex said that the country's proved hydrocarbon reserves were 16,000 million barrels, probable reserves 30,000 million and potential reserves 120,000 million barrels more.

President Portillo said during his annual address to the nation on September 1 that the proven reserves had risen to 20,000 million barrels, the probable to 37,000 million and the potential to an extraordinary 200,000 million.

Then earlier this month Pemex director-general, Señor Jorge Díaz Serrano, announced that an extra 100,000 million barrels of crude oil had been discovered in the Tampico-Misahuatla area of Mexico.

In 1977, Pemex introduced a \$15,500-million programme aimed at producing 2.2 million barrels of oil and natural gas liquids daily by 1982. The company now expects to reach its production goal by 1980. By then it expects to be exporting 1.1 million barrels of hydrocarbons daily.

This year, exports are expected to reach 500,000 barrels daily. A CIA report on the oil needs of the United States says that Mexico could have an exportable surplus of up to 5 million barrels daily by 1985.

Oil production in Mexico started early this century. By the early 1920s production had

reached about 500,000 barrels a day, about 25 per cent of the world's oil supply. American companies controlled most of the industry.

In 1938, troubles, which began brewing during the 1910-1911 Mexican Revolution, exploded. Mexico accused the international oil companies of inadequately conserving existing reserves, failing to explore for new reserves and unfair labour practices.

The Government nationalized the industry and expropriated the oil companies that sent a year and Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) was born. But Mexican oil exports sagged as the oil companies boycotted Mexican products. One estimate put resulting Mexican foreign exchange losses at \$25m a year.

The boycott was lifted in 1945. But by then Mexico's production was barely enough to keep pace with the increasing domestic consumption. Government insistence on providing energy to domestic customers at low prices had led to increased demand in the country.

When operating costs increased, Pemex was unable to amass the profits it needed to invest in further exploration. And when it found itself in a position to export a limited amount of crude, the government of the day decided that the greatest benefits to the country could be gained by Pemex's selling refined products abroad instead. There turned out to be few takers.

In the early 1970s Mexican began importing oil and it was not until Pemex was allowed to double the price of domestic oil products in 1974 that Mexico became self-sufficient in oil once more. That same year, it began exporting 35,000 barrels of crude daily.

Early in his six-year term, which began in December, 1976, President Portillo said that countries could be divided into those with oil and those without it. "We have it," he said. But many critics believe that oil will not resolve Mexico's problems of massive unemployment, a soaring birth rate and a vastly unequal income distribution.

## ness Diary: Free-wheeling Whittaker • Gibbons' deck hand

cer has hardly had his chair at GKN go on to pastures o become manag- of Rockware Glass although he starts any next Monday. 49, joined GKN at 4m head office as ager of product only last April. He as new job as manag- of Leyland Cars in 1 after the arrival s new chairman ardes. d after a differ- id with Edwardes



s and now Rock- k Whittaker in a t of immobility.

ype of the cars div- ker, who had been recur of the Austin - and assembly div- appointed cars under the now-dis r plan. n involved in a big re- of GKN's design- ed seemed to be himself. However,

Rockware believes that running an outfit with a £100m annual turnover is more suited to his managerial and industrial relations skills. The move to Rockware should mean that Whittaker's travelling time to work is shortened. While working for GKN, he has been commuting to Birmingham from his home in Warwickshire. He now has to go only to Northampton, where he is replacing David Bailey, who is to become managing director of the Rockware Group.

Bailey, 44, has been with Rockware since 1960 and he held his present job for the past six years.

Jim Craigie, the present managing director, has decided that at 67 it is time that he stepped down from running the group's day-to-day affairs, although he will continue as group chairman.

It is on the cards that Kathleen Wowk will soon emerge as an authority on investment she does not even know what to call the buying and selling of playing cards. Miss Wowk, pronounced ("Woke"), is the author of *Tarot Cards*, a collector's guide to be published next month by the Stanley Gibbons group, for whom she works as a press officer.

She began to read about and collect Tarot cards about five years ago—long before she joined Gibbons. The firm is to hold an auction of playing cards next Wednesday.

The pursuit has yet to acquire a universally recognized name and this is one thing that Miss Wowk would like to collect. If you have any



House of cards: Stanley Gibbons' Kathleen Wowk in London yesterday.

suggestions, do let her know. Although it is the investment value of cards with which she is professionally concerned, she does do a little gambling, and even some fortune-telling for friends. She declined politely to tell either my fortune or my character with her Tarot cards, but she did vouchsafe me some first impressions from our lunchtime chat.

I am, she says, a soft-centred, down-to-earth opportunist and survivor, with conventional views on women. She may be right, she may be wrong, but I will settle for it in case the cards say something worse.

On Friday last week I said that I expected a new head of Max Factor cosmetics group to be announced shortly. He is, I now learn, Dale Ratliff, who becomes world president and chief executive officer.

The interesting thing about this appointment is that Ratliff comes out of the same compact as Sam Kalish, recently deposed as Max Factor's head.

Ratliff is executive vice-president of Revlon, Factor's deadly rival and the biggest cosmetics company in the United States.

Kalish used to be Ratliff's boss at Revlon before he was poached two years ago by David Mahoney, chairman of Factor's parent, Norton Simon Inc.

This appointment did not work, for Factor tried to "out-Revlon" Revlon, bringing out more new lines than could be made and distributed to the shops in time. Kalish retired earlier this year.

Ratliff, a former marine, is a textiles man who came to Revlon from BVD, the underwear company, and before that was with Playtex, the girdle people.

Employees of the accountancy firm Price Waterhouse who work in the spectacular tower block overlooking London Bridge Station are watching British Rail's brand new plastic, glass and steel canopy anxiously. The area is believed to be the widest part of London and the canopy with its strange brown plastic wings looks delicate.

Proof of the strength of the gales around those parts comes from a Price Waterhouse employee who works on the nineteenth floor of the block. He was alarmed recently to see an open umbrella drifting upward past his window.

Unhappily there was no Mary Poppins attached, but he timed the flight and it was four minutes before the broly landed daintily on a warehouse by the river.

In this week's Camelford and Delabole Post (Cornwall) a report headed "Ladies Day at Wadebridge Fatstock Show" starts: "Two young women took the honours at Wadebridge Fatstock Show's centenary exhibition on Monday."

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## Stock markets

## Interest centres on gilt edged

Gilt-edged attracted what interest there was yesterday with equity dealers once again complaining about the paucity of business and fearing that the festive or silly season in shares will not start until half way through December. Even if gilt edged things were ominously quiet. There was a flicker of interest in loans in the opening minutes of trading but that was all. Renewed weakness in the pound did nothing to help and fund managers were content to await the start of dealings in the two new top stocks, Treasury 12 per cent 2003-2005, and Exchequer 12 1/2 per cent 1985 this Friday. The fear is that both will serve to weaken the stocks around the relevant dates so there is no point buying now.

A further factor discouraging interest in either gilts or equities are the attractive returns of up to 12 1/2 per cent on one month money. While the institutions await further decisive news on the labour front from Ford and BOC International the case for letting cash accumulate seems overwhelming.

In a week Parker Timber has come up from 107p to 121p, nudging 11p yesterday. There is nothing in the way of official headlines or meetings due. Profits fell a bit in the year to March, but the year to the directors were in a meeting.

The upshot was that gilts at the short end showed losses of between 1/2 and 1/4 while long bonds gave up 1/2.

Equity dealers were equally well aware of the attractions of the money market to institutions and there was in addition little in the way of company news to divert them. They also seem to be growing tired of trying to lead the market upward which they have done for the last two weeks or two. Instead they marked down shares yesterday but unhappily they did not mark down far enough to stir up business. Meanwhile the FT 100 fell by 4.0 to 2,688.3 on Friday and 4,573 last Monday. In London the bargains marked total was a mere 3,326.

Some observers are saying that the FT 30 index is underestimating the weakness of the market. They say that the index is made up of 30 shares and an additional

cause for disquiet is the retreat in nearly all world bourses. A bumpy exception yesterday was Wall Street.

It rumbled in a small way early on the stronger dollar, and thoughts that pending OPEC oil price increases may not be too severe.

Leading industrials were on offer with Unilever and John Brown both 4 down at 534p and 385p. Bechtel's ex rights finished the day at 600p an effective fall on the day of 10p. Losses of 3p were registered in Glaxo at 522p and Fisons at 305p. John Brown shed 4p to 385p while BAT remained firm at 270p.

Courtauld and ICI with figures due this week both eased 1p to 111p and 360p respectively.

Among companies reporting Reckmans improved 2p to 65p after interim figures showing a 20 per cent improvement over last year as the result of a minor textile boom. Australia and New Zealand Banking reported full year figures finished the day all square at 294p.

On the bid front an after hours agreed bid from Ladbroke, 2p easier at 157p, boosted shares of Myddelton Hotels, which was already the subject of some speculative buying. After an initial rise in the morning of 15p the shares fell to 157p following the £4.5m bid, finishing the day at 295p. Meanwhile, shares of Cedar Holdings returned from suspension and jumped by 5p to 24p after terms from Lloyds of 24p for a cross share remained unmoved at 84p.

Reports of lottery boom currently underway lifted shares of Norton and Wright 10p to 150p but left other major members of the group J. Coral unchanged at 112p.

Elsewhere, shares of J. Lucas improved 1p to 298p following

the annual report coupled with further encouraging noises of an end to the Ford dispute. The latter also proved a source of hope for Ford main dealers with Harold Perry up 3p to 111p while BSG International remained firm at 38p.

Shares of Parker Timber continued to rise as a result of further speculative buying moving ahead 1p to 121p. However, a warning from the chairman of W. Canning that the profits expected in the second half were unlikely to materialize set the shares back 10p to 52p.

Not even the seasonal Christmas cheer could inspire shares. Losses of 5p were noted earlier on in GUS's although both the ordinary and the A firm towards the end to finish 2p lighter at 302p and 298p. Boots slipped 2p to 195p while United and British Bredon only 1p to 88p and 195p. Only Marks & Spencer fought the trend to finish all square at 84p.

In engineering news that the Government was reviewing rival turbine designs left GEC 5p lighter at 310p and Northern Engineering 1p lower at 128p. M. K. Electric with figures due out later this week was in nervous mood with the shares 5p down at 201p. Other electricals to lose ground included EMI 2p down at 149p, Farnell Electric 3p lighter at 357p, and Racal 2p off at 312p. Only Unibac was able to move against the grain with a rise of 2p to 157p.

Weekend press comment explained a variety of small movements. But some of the Sunday recommendations did not move at all. A lot of market men are saying that subscription shares are now exerting more influence.

However Sunday comment was good for 1p to 53p in Valor and 3p to 54p in Redman

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Heenan, Satchi and Satchi bid the best gain on comment, rising 7p to 124p. But Crouch Group, J. Walker Goldsmith and Metal Box all remained unchanged on the day at 64p, 111p and 300p respectively. Metal Box has half time figures today. In the same way, W. Ribbons, Capital & Counties and Dimple marked time at 52p, 58p and 231p.

Drinks shares held reasonably steady as hopes of a busy Christmas and likely price increases next year fought against fears of Phase Four wage deals and higher employers' national insurance contributions.

The shares in Leigh Interest, the "Seaford" unit treatment group, rested at 116p. They have been sinking quickly for a week or two. In June it had a £2.7m cash call. The two for five issue was pitched at 130p, a good discount on the existing shares, then 155p. Mrs Joan Agar and her colleagues looked forward to a satisfactory result but there is an impression that "Seaford" has met temporary problems.

Falls were mainly of 2p or less, as in Arthur Bell at 242p, though Greene King shed 3p to 282p. However Distillers held its own at 198p and Allied 2p up at 137p. Allied has figures due soon, but some observers are unhappy with the decision to extend its present accounting period to March 31, next. The worry is that the balance sheet will presumably look stronger next March than in September when business was at a peak, thus cushioning the impact of the Lyons acquisition.

Insurances and properties fell much in line with the rest of the market and showed falls

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## Myddelton soars on Ladbroke agreed bid

The share price of Myddelton Hotels soared 80p to 255p yesterday with the announcement that the Ladbroke Group has made an agreed £4.5m offer for the chain.

The terms of the bid are 30p cash for a cash and share alternative of one new Ladbroke ordinary share plus half balance of cash giving an aggregate value of 300p. The group is offering 30p for the preference shares. The Ladbroke Group, which has been pursuing a policy of increasing its hotel and motor inn business, owns 3.6 per cent of the shares, while Myddelton's directors, members of their families and other major shareholders hold a 30.3 per cent stake.

The company has seven hotels in English tourist centres including York, Bath and Eastbourne. Pre-tax profits were £570,000 in the last financial year and Mr. Cecil Stain, Ladbroke chairman, said that he expected it to make £750,000 in the current year.

Its fixed assets stood at £3.34m in the latest annual report and an additional 50 rooms are already under construction which is expected to be completed by the middle of next year.

Myddelton's acquisition will increase the total number of Ladbroke hotels and motor inns from 18 to 25, and Mr. Stain said yesterday that the group would continue its policy of expansion in the field. "We expect to make £5m from the hotel side in 1979," he said.

The Myddelton chain will be managed with its present management. Mr. Richard Beattie, Myddelton's deputy chairman, will be offered a seat on the Ladbroke hotels operating board as well as continuing as chairman of the group. The other executive directors will also remain on the Myddelton board.

The purchase will enable Ladbroke to expand its hotel division, which includes the Dragon and Mercury hotels, in major tourist centres. The group is also planning to include its proposed Edinburgh hotel in the Myddelton chain.

Ladbroke's chief executive, Mr. Richard Beattie, said that the group would continue its policy of expansion in the field. "We expect to make £5m from the hotel side in 1979," he said.

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## Australia &amp; NZ Bank puts on 40 pc to full-time £36m

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The group struck profits after transferring £14.5m to the annual contingency reserve. The new rules require banks to arrive at this position by making "cost-cutting" transfers and not after, as at present.

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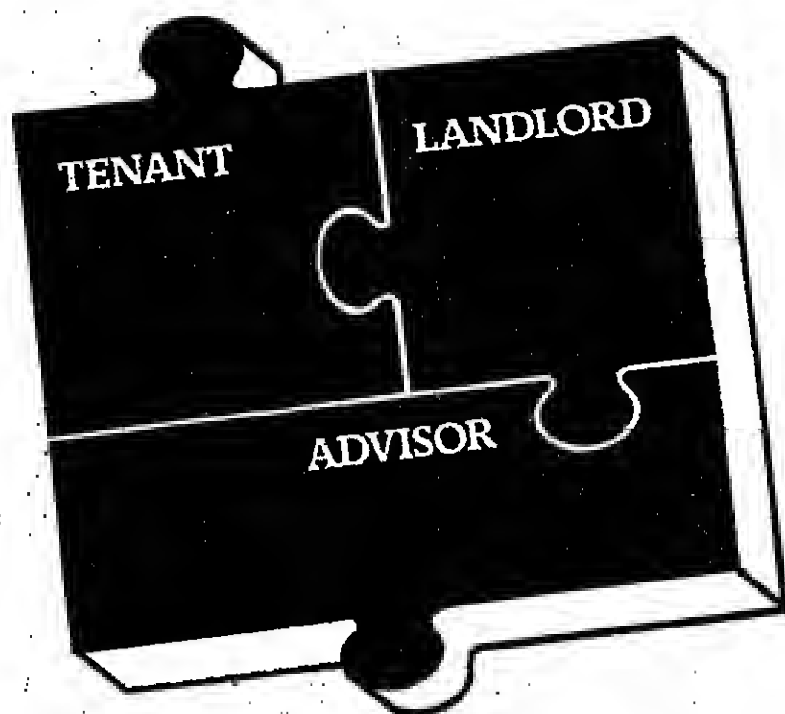
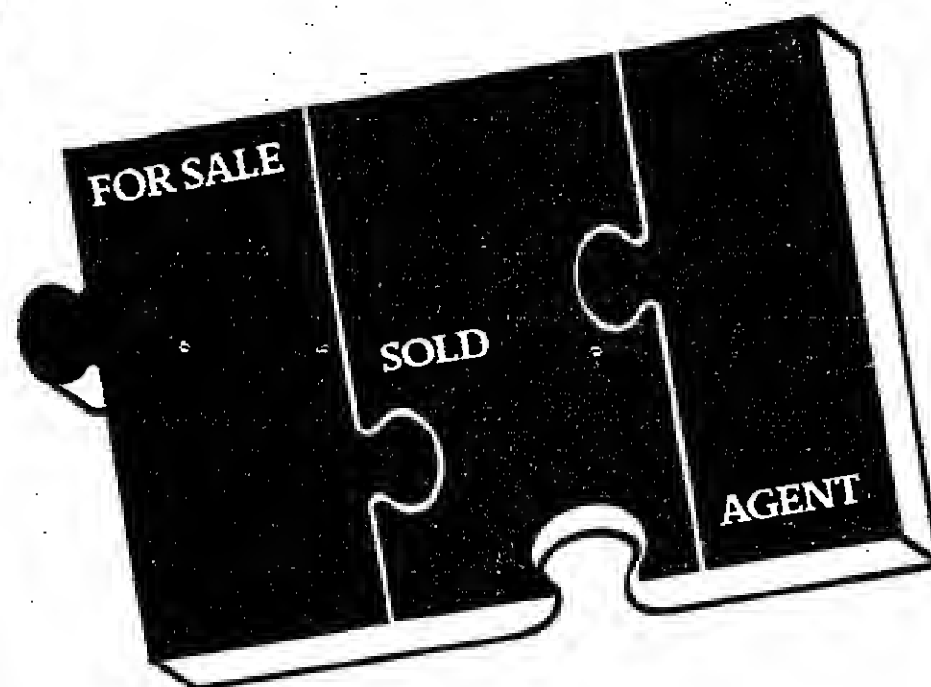
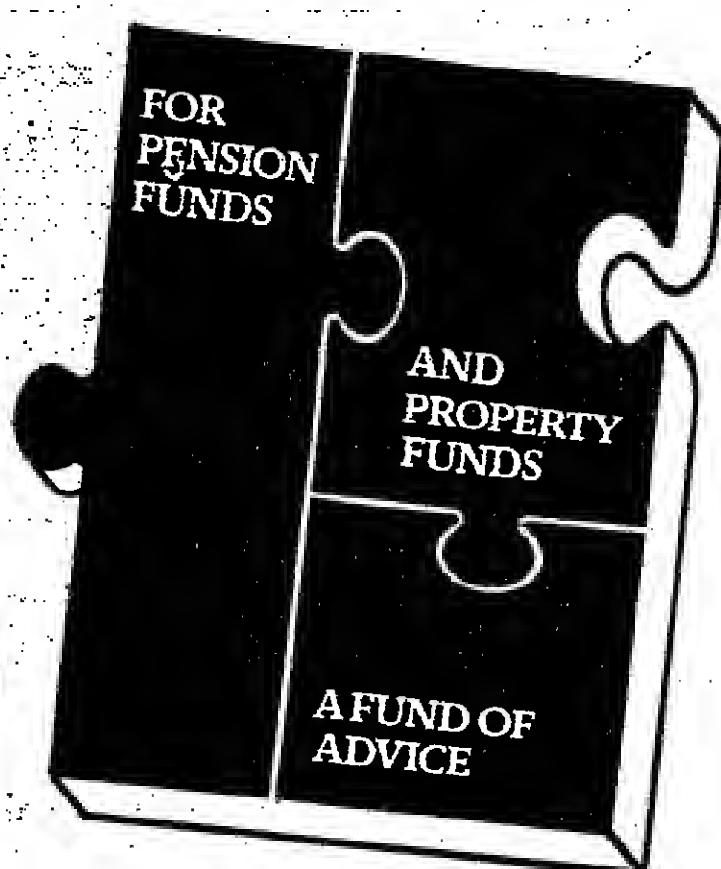
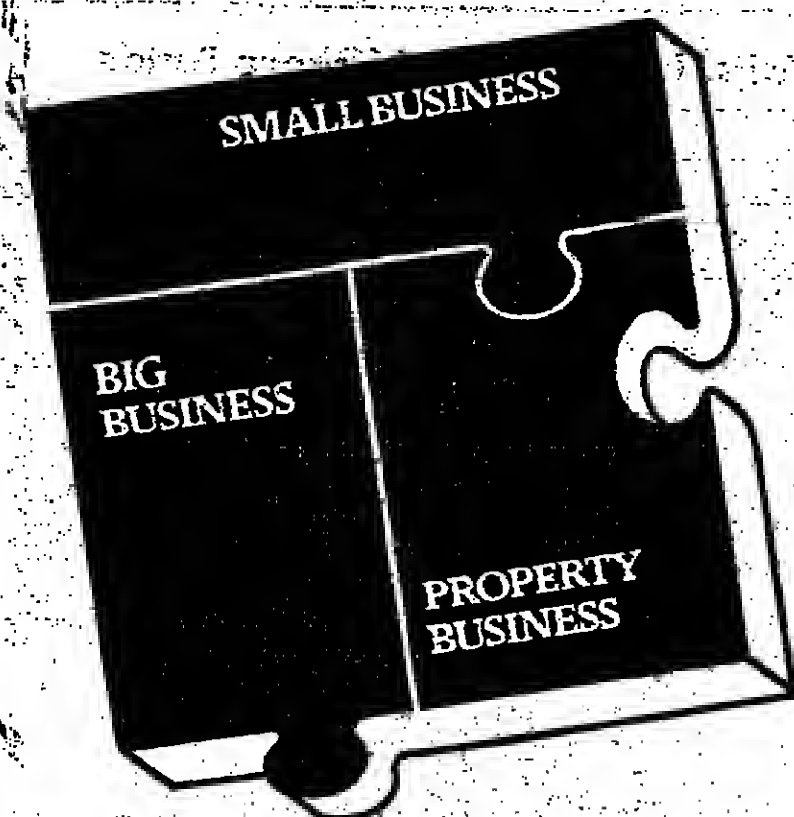
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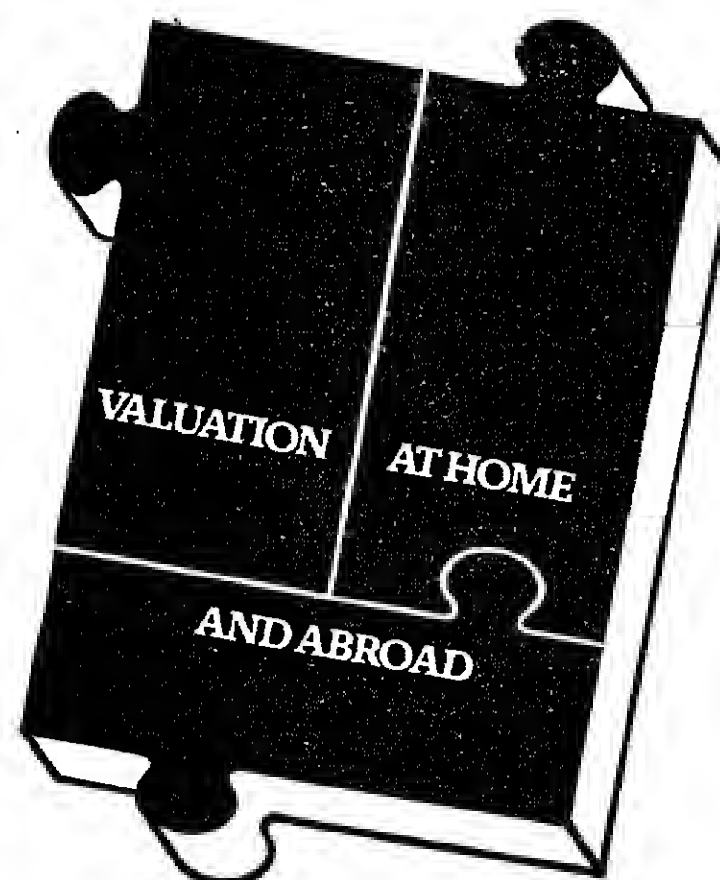
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## Chancery Division

## General Vacancies

no price paid by Knoedler for the shares could possibly have been intended. That was not of the essence of those provisions. His Lordship, referring to what Lord Ungoed said in *Clary* at page 790, thought that the right question for determination at the end of the day was: looking at the scheme as a whole, had there been any contribution to the realization including application in discharge of liabilities, of profits, income, reserves or other assets of the company, in which he did not bear tax on it? That as his Lordship understood it, postulated that there had been some contribution to have been received from a third party. Further the Greenberg case strongly indicated that the duty of the paymaster was irrelevant.

The commissioners had been in the company's mind, within Lord Wilberforce's mind, in the procedure, another payment made by Knoedler. What they should have asked was whether there was any possible way in which the profits of the company might have reached the shareholders' hands—by way of a sale of the Poussin and distribution of the proceeds, or otherwise. It would indeed be the most natural way

company to a third party for much fine gold, as distinct from causing the company to declare dividends. The payments would then serve to contrast the actual with the notional payment (as directed by Lord Wilberforce in *Parker*) from different paymasters: the purchase of the shares in the one case, and the company in the other. But Mrs. Thornton, for the taxpayers, submitted that it was essential for the proper application of those provisions that where the receipt by the company in question was a monetary payment for the actual and the notional payments to be made by the same person, in this case the company, as Lord Justice Thorp, she pointed out, had been the situation in *Parker* and also in *IRC v Cleary* (1968) (AC 760). She submitted that it was necessary to agree with the commissioners that

# by agreement

ceased to be in physical occupation of a house, confined to it as a wife, and to be liable for the same, his wife to remain there as a means of discharging in part his obligation to maintain her, for, so long as the husband's wife was so confined, he was bound to provide her with a beneficial use from the house.

In the present case, unlike that of *Garner*, the property was jointly owned, but that made no difference to the question whether Mr Garner was using the premises as his wife's home. His obligation to maintain his wife and child.

As to the arrangement for the payment of the rates made between Mr Garner and his wife, the council, as the rating authority, was not bound by it.

Accordingly, the justices were wrong in holding that Mr Garner was not in ir-tenable occupation of the house. The case should go back to the justices with a direction that a suitable apportionment be made of the sums due to reflect a concession by the council that Mr Garner was liable for the rates from the date of Mrs Garner's remarriage.

Mr Justice Griffiths and Mr Justice Glynne agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Brian W. Longden, Loughborough.

# **guage loss** for saying that once an employee made the choice of taking a deferred pension, no loss resulted. That argument was not accepted. The first question was whether Mr. Barclay had suffered any loss. It was clear that Mr. Barclay had. The next question was whether he was required to take a deferred pension. There was no rule of law requiring an employee to take a deferred pension. If an employee was entitled to show that an employer had acted unreasonably he had to prove it. It was argued that if the industry was right - an employer paid contributions twice. Although monies might be locked up to a fund it was not lost. It was argued that employers had to top up funds from time to time. The employers were relieved from paying contributions. Mr. Barclay and the amount in the fund could go towards stopping it up for other employees. **Solicitors:** Hill, Dickinson & Co., Liverpool.

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thers (51), Mr Anthony Berry  
father (59), Mr James Lester  
Morrison (54), Sir George  
Lord James Douglas-Hamilton  
Gregor (41).

nsultative committee (Shadow

By Marcel Berlioz

There is no strong case to be made at present for splitting up and placing into separate hands the functions exercised by the Attorney General, according to Mr. Peter Archer, QC, the Solicitor General.

In a Fabian pamphlet on the law officers' role, Mr. Archer discusses the question whether the Attorney General's duty to represent the public interest in law is compatible with his role as senior legal adviser to the Government and the fact that he is a party politician.

Mr Archer is convinced that whoever represents the public interest should be a politician who can make assessments from a background and knowledge of public affairs and can be accountable to Parliament. The same was true of the law officers who performed the advisory function.

The alternative, to create a separate department, headed by a senior lawyer, requiring a separate budget and accommodation, was not likely to prove attractive unless it could be shown that the role of a law officer was such as to call the present practice in question.

The *Law Officers* (Law Research Series 339, 75p).

## Commons move on plight of handicapped mother

From Our Correspondent Brighton

Mr Andrew Bowden, Conservative MP for Brighton, Kempthorn, will seek today to raise in the House of Commons the case of a severely handicapped mother who, he says, has been denied a private car home by new mobility measures for the disabled.

Mr Bowden says that Mrs Margaret Towne, aged 23, is a mother of two children, but because her disability is so severe,

she has difficulty in walking.

Under old regulations she would have been entitled to claim for a passenger-carrying car in replace-

her invalid carriage. Since the change, the only way she can get a car is claim a new £10 a week mobility allowance and join the Government-backed Motability scheme.

However, officials have said they cannot help Mrs Towne because her car would need too many modifications.

Mr Bowden, speaking at Mrs Towne's flat in Albion Court, Brighton, said yesterday: "I shall be applying for an adjournment debate to raise this very unusual case on the floor of the House."

"I intend going for the minister in a very big way. This is a ludicrous situation," Mrs Towne was not so disabled she would not have had all this trouble. Provision should have been made for people like her."

From Our Correspondent  
Brighton

Mrs Andrew Bowden, Conservative MP for Brighton, Kempiton, will seek today to raise in the House of Commons the case of a severely handicapped mother who, she says, has been denied the right to travel home by new mobility measures for the disabled.

Mrs Bowden says that Mrs Margaret Towne aged 40, is a mother of three children and that her disability is so severe.

Mrs Towne, a Brightonville vicar's wife, has been bringing up her daughter, Emma, aged three months, without the use of arms. She also has difficulty in walking.

Under old regulations she would have been entitled to claim for a passenger-carrying car in replace

her invalid carriage. Since the changes, the only way she can get a car is claim a new £10 a week mobility allowance and join the Government-backed Mobility scheme.

However, officials have said they cannot help Mrs Towne because her car would need too many modifications.

Mrs Bowden, speaking at Mrs Towne's in Albion Close, Brighton, said yesterday: "I shall be applying for an adjournment debate to raise this very unusual case on the floor of the House."

"I intend going for the minister in a very big way. This is a ludicrous situation. Mrs Towne was disabled before she had not have had all this trouble. Provision should have been made for people like her."

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(continued on page 32)



